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Daily Eastern News: April 27, 2007

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the **DAILY EASTERN NEWS**

FRIDAY
4.27.07

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Volume | 93 Issue | 71

UNIVERSITY | BOT MEETING

Incoming freshmen may pay \$20 more

University police chief to present on campus safety in regard to Virginia Tech shooting

By **Ashley Rueff**
Senior University Reporter

New students can expect to pay \$194.40 per semester hour next fall.

The Board of Trustees is expected to approve the \$20.85 increase in tuition from the 2006-07 rate of \$173.55 at today's meeting.

"April is usually the meeting where we set tuition and fees," said Eastern President Lou Hencken. "We want to (set the rates) while students are here."

The tuition rates for students who enrolled at Eastern by the fall 2004 semester are locked into their tuition under the Illinois Truth in Tuition Law.

Students not locked in under the law will pay \$158.65 per semester hour. Hencken said fewer than 1,000 students are not locked in to their tuition rates.

The increase in tuition reflects the decrease in state funding Eastern has seen since 2002, Hencken said. "It's a direct correlation."

The board is also expected to approve increases in textbook rental service fees, health service and pharmacy fees, health and accidental insurance fees and athletic fees. Campus improvement fees will also be increased for incoming students.

"We have a physical plant here with buildings that get older everyday," Hencken said. The cut in state funding has stalled some campus improvements that need some attention, he said.

Increases in medical care, health insurance and transportation costs are reasons for the health services and athletics fee increases, Hencken said.

The board will also approve tenure recommendations, elect officers and approve next year's meeting schedule.

There will also be a presentation by University Police Chief Adam Due to report on the safety of campus following the Virginia Tech shooting on April 16.

"We're going to do a report because of Virginia Tech," Hencken said. "Probably one of the highest priorities at this university is the safety of our students, faculty and staff."

Perry in 'extreme learning mode'



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Dr. William Perry addresses the faculty senate in the Martinsville room of the Union on Thursday afternoon. Perry opened the floor to questions from faculty and said that he was looking forward to "getting to know the infrastructure of the university."

Future president plans to 'be like Lou' and interact frequently with students on campus

By **Kristy Mellendorf**
Staff Reporter

Bill Perry walked into the Martinsville Room and shook everyone's hand before taking a seat at the head of the table with an M&M chocolate chip cookie and notebook in hand.

The Faculty Senate held a special meeting to welcome Perry to the staff on Thursday.

Perry had sent a message asking for the special meeting, which 23 people attended.

"We just needed to decide when it would work for us, since our usual meetings are on Tuesdays," said Assege HaileMariam, Faculty Senate Chair.

After being introduced to the

crowd, the future president then began to field questions on concerns of the senate.

Perry categorized himself as being in "extreme learning mode," while attempting to get to know all that he can about Eastern.

Perry discussed his idea to make Eastern a first-choice school, as brought up by Jeanne Snyder, a faculty member from family and consumer sciences.

"It's a hard concept to phrase (first-choice school) because that somehow implies that we are less than that," Perry said. "A lot of people I've talked to consider this university to be their first choice."

Ann Brownson, in charge of General Operations at Booth Library, inquired about faculty living out of town.

"It's all a matter of perspective, it's important as a university to be a driving part of the environment that surrounds us," Perry said.

» SEE PERRY, PAGE 6

Fair trade



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Danielle Meyer, a sophomore biology major, looks at a rack of fair trade necklaces on sale from 10,000 Villages from Champaign, which visited Eastern to raise awareness and sell goods in the South Quad on Thursday afternoon. "I wanted to check out the cool cultural stuff that Eastern doesn't usually have," Meyer said.

Blumberg family finally finds peace

Man convicted of killing Amy Blumberg, an Eastern student murdered in 1999

By **David Thill**
Staff Reporter

On the morning of Jan. 1, 2000, sometime between 7 and 7:30 a.m., the phone in Lou Hencken's office rang. Hencken, then the vice president for student affairs, thought he knew the news awaiting

SUE BLUMBERG | AMY'S MOTHER

"Now we can remember and celebrate the life of Amy without thinking about the trial. But (the verdict) does help."

him.

For months leading up to the New Year, Eastern, as well as anyone who owned a computer, had been preparing itself for the threat of Y2K.

When the phone rang that morning, Hencken said he

immediately thought it would be bad news, something perhaps had gone wrong with the computers on campus, maybe the university had not prepared enough.

The New Year came and went and Y2K proved to be nothing more than a myth.

However, the news awaiting Hencken on the other end of the line was far worse.

An Eastern student had been killed.

On the night of Dec. 31, 1999, Amy Blumberg, a junior family and consumer sciences major and member of Sigma Kappa sorority, was working in her uncle's retail store in O'Fallon.

Amy's friends were expecting her to close the store and meet with them at the regular time.

» SEE BLUMBERG, PAGE 6

787 students volunteer

28th Special Olympics to be held at O'Brien Stadium today

By Marco Santana
Campus Editor

When Jessica Wendling heard about the chance to become a volunteer for the Special Olympics as a freshman, she thought it sounded like fun. She volunteered and helped the athletes get to the starting line, a basic function of a volunteer.

Four years later, now she leads the volunteers. Wendling is in her second year as volunteer coordinator for the Special Olympics.

The 28th annual event will be today at O'Brien Stadium and Darling Courts.

The daylong event begins with a parade into O'Brien Stadium at 8 a.m. and lasts until around 3 p.m.

Wendling, a senior special education major, said the motivation for volunteering for the last four years is simple.

"Just seeing their faces (at the finish line)," she said. "Just the joy that they have for life. They are all very supportive of each other."

Last year, the event had 744 volunteers. This year, that number

JESSICA WENDLING | VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

"It's a big part of their life to be able to go out and do this and be able to show what they can do instead of what they can't."

has increased. As of April 19, Wendling said there were 787 volunteers with still more expected to show up today.

The number of volunteers from Eastern is a big part of why the event is so successful, said Kimberly Abell, the Area 9 Director of the Special Olympics in Illinois.

"We do pull most of our volunteers from the Eastern community," she said. "It's important to have our volunteers be uplifting and cheerful."

Abell said the athletes get a sense of pride in themselves and in the other athletes, even if they don't finish with a medal.

"They are not getting upset at finishing fourth," she said. "It all goes back to them having that involvement. It's not the end of the world if they don't (win)."

Wendling said the event helps the athletes celebrate their abilities.

"You're just focused on what they

can do," she said. "It's a big part of their life to be able to go out and do this and be able to show what they can do instead of what they can't."

Special Olympics is an end-of-the-year event for Sigma Rho Epsilon, the special education honors fraternity.

The fraternity works with people with disabilities throughout the year.

"We love helping other people," Wendling said. "A lot of the times they teach us a lot of things. Along with us teaching them, they teach us a lot of things about life and different things."

Wendling said patience was one of the biggest things they learn from them along with seeing how much love they have to give.

"It's a great feeling just to know that you helped somebody and that you can make a difference in their life, no matter how big or small," she said.

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Contact any of the above staff members you believe your information is relevant to at their provided e-mail address.

You may also call 581-7942 or visit the student publications newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

Corrections

The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected on this page as promptly as possible.

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From trash to Treasure

Haiti Connection takes used items, sells at fall sale, money raised toward Haiti

By Ashley Mefford
Activities Reporter

Instead of trashing used furniture and small appliances, students can donate them to help benefit Haiti.

The Haiti Connection has been at Eastern's campus since 1989, said Roy Lanham, Haiti Connection adviser.

The 17th annual collection is called from "Mugs to Rugs".

Furniture, clothing, small appliances and household items are accepted.

The items that are donated are resold and the money goes to Haiti. The furniture that is donated is not what is actually sent to Haiti; the money raised is donated. Last year, \$3,100 went to Haiti.

About 90 percent of the money raised goes to Haiti and 10 percent of the money is given to people in need, said Lanham.

The Haiti Connection usually gets a great response.

"Students typically fill up the basement of Newman Catholic Center," Lanham said.

Kevin Harris, a senior history major, is the chair of the Haiti Connection. He has been involved with Haiti Connection for two years. He is in charge of meetings where he goes over fundraising and progress reports for the Haiti Connection.

"The best thing about being involved with the Haiti Connection is the amount of people we are helping," Harris said.

Kyla Nance, the chair for the yard sale, is in charge of a committee for the yard sale.

Nance, a senior art major, coordinates pickup times and gets the campus ready for the yard sale.

Donations are accepted throughout the summer. Students primarily donate items before they move out and over the summer some community members donate items.

Items donated will be sold the first weekend of school.

Students interested in donating to Haiti Connection can place their donations outside the resident halls at collection areas.

Students can start donating Saturday through May 5.

Students involved with the yard sale have gotten a lot out of it.

"This raises awareness of other kinds of struggles because this country has a sort of privilege," Nance said. "This has really opened my eyes to how people live. I have become more aware of how we are interconnected with culture."

Off-campus students can drop off donations at the Newman Catholic Center at 500 Roosevelt Ave or call 217-348-0188.

weatheroutlook

TODAY
62° | 48°
Cloudy

SATURDAY
73° | 50°
Partly cloudy

SUNDAY
76° | 54°
Sunny

CAMPUS | GREEK LIFE



KELLY MARIE CREMENT/THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Joe Zoubek, a senior corporate communications major receives an award from Dr. Eberly, a professor of counseling and student development and his wife during Greek awards Thursday in the Grand Ballroom.

Harper, Nowak awarded Greek Woman, Man of year

Kappa Delta, Sigma Phi Epsilon awarded for Greek Week overall

By Stacy Smith
Greek Life Reporter

Shannon Harper was shocked to walk up to the stage and receive her plaque for Greek Woman of the Year.

Heavily involved with the community and Greek Life, Harper participated in numerous community service projects and organizations.

Her memberships include Greek Week Steering Committee, order of Omega and Gamma Sigma Alpha and the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association.

Looking back on Harper's four years of commitment to Alpha Gamma Delta, she realized the sorority helped her grow into the person she is today.

"It has helped me with everything," said Harper, a senior communication disorder and sciences major. "Friendships, responsibility, sincere honor – like the sincerity of being proud of something."

Mike Nowak was named Greek Man of the Year because of his continuous involvement and devotion to the Greek community.

He was involved in Relay of Life, Interfraternity Council, youth mentoring and coaching, and was Vice President of Standards and IFC President for two terms.

"Greek Man and Woman of the Year is a recognition of an individual's contribution entirely throughout the year," said Bob Dudolski, director of Greek Life. "The award is given to members of the Greek community who emphasized living out fraternal values on a daily basis."

The banquet recognized multiple outstanding members and chapters and awarded scholarships.

Dudolski also awarded the top 10 fraternity and sorority members of the year.

"There are so many people qualified, we still need to give these people recognition as well," he said.

Megan Dolan's favorite Greek event of the year is attending the banquet.

"It's such a great event to recognize every individual in Greek Week and Greek Life within the past year," said Dolan, a senior early education major and overall chair in Greek Week Steering Committee.

Dolan was impressed with the committee's devotion to Greek Week.

"They were phenomenal," she said. "Everyone worked their fingers to the bone and got to know

the people from other chapters. I've never worked with such wonderful people."

The Greek community also raises money to donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital each year.

This year, Greek Life raised more than \$30,000, an increase of \$12,952 from last year. Donations will continue to be taken until August.

Each chapter writes letters to friends and family requesting donations.

This year, about \$14,000 was raised from the letter-writing campaign and about \$16,000 was raised from philanthropy events sponsored by individual chapters.

Some chapters sponsored spaghetti dinners and silent auctions.

Sigma Phi Epsilon sent out additional fund-raising letters.

The fraternity sent out an additional 400 letters to families and businesses throughout central Illinois.

These letters raised an additional \$3,195.

"Our goal was \$2,500 and we were happy to make quite a bit over that," said Jimmy Friesema, a junior business education major and president of Sigma Phi Epsilon. "It's amazing how easy it is to help out a cause."

CAMPUS

FRIDAY
4.27.07

campusbriefs

Panther Service Day Right Around Corner

» Eastern is holding its Fifth Annual Panther Service Day on Saturday. Panther Service Day is a campus-wide community service project where students can help paint houses and clean up the community.

"Usually a large number of students come and help out," said Allison Kostelich.

Kostelich was recently elected as student vice president for academic affairs for the next school year.

"Basically this is a project to let students give back to the community," Kostelich said.

Registration and breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union and will be followed by the beginning of the project at 9 a.m.

This is a good opportunity to give back and to utilize the good weather in a helpful way.

-Molly Clutter, staff reporter

Eastern hosts first film festival

» The first film festival ever on Eastern's campus is set for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The "Gender and Popcorn" Film Festival will spotlight Iranian and Iraqi women in film. Two films are planned for Friday, which will begin at 7 p.m. with "The House is Black" and immediately following will be a showing of "The Circle." On Saturday, "Turtles Can Fly" will be showing at 1 p.m. and "Corrupted Hands" will be showing on Sunday also at 1 p.m. All of the showings are at Lumpkin Auditorium.

-Lauren Krull, associate news editor

EIU Observatory open for last viewing of semester

» The EIU Observatory will be open today for tours, even if it's cloudy.

This is the last open viewing at the observatory until June.

The free program is at 8 tonight and is open to the public.

The observatory is located between O'Brien Stadium and the intramural softball fields.

For more information, call 581-3220.

-Cathy Bayer, news editor

ourmistakes

Holly Thomas was misidentified on Page 5 of Thursday's edition of the Daily Eastern News. Thomas is a senior journalism major.

The DEN regrets the errors.

COMMENTS | CORRECTIONS | EVENTS

To report any errors, local events or general suggestions for future editions please contact our news editor, **Cathy Bayer**, via:

Phone | 581-7942,
E-mail | DENnewsdesk@gmail.com
Office visit | 1811 Buzzard Hall.

VIEWS

FRIDAY
4.27.07

COLUMNIST | MICHAEL PETERSON

Stereotypes suck

White people are racists. Black people like chicken. Asians are good at math and Jews are good with money.

So...what do all of the above have in common? If you guessed "they are all stereotypes," then you can pat yourself on the back. If you also guessed that the above "are all dangerous and unfair," then you get the extra credit.

This Monday has been an insane week for Eastern journalists and Greeks alike. If you didn't realize, an editorial was published in the opinion page of *The Daily Eastern News* this Monday criticizing Greek Week (essentially, opening Pandora's Box). Almost instantly, *The DEN's* message boards lit up with posts. By noon, there were over 60 posts — more posts than we get in a good week.

There were a decent number of posts that were articulated and well-written posts. Unfortunately, most of the posts consisted of name-calling and people hurling insults at one another. Not the most productive discussion that I've seen. Some of my personal favorite quotes were: "WHOEVER WROTE THIS BULLSHIT IS DEFINATLY A VIRGIN!!!" and "I totally agree with this article. I mean when Greek week is going on, it is very distracting to my D&D tournaments, my computer game playing, and my in-depth on-line conversations with my imaginary girlfriend.— Dungeons and Dragons Master Level 47." There were so many sweeping generalizations poured into the boards that I was practically drowning in them. One poster even wrote, "Put the tanning lotion down, set aside the condoms, and take a chill Greek people." (Note: All posts have been left in their original typo-ridden state so that the "brilliance" of the poster's words would not be watered down.)

So what did this accomplish? Absolutely nothing. After 300 posts, there is still no more mutual understanding gained between Greeks, *The DEN* and GDIs (God-Damn Independents) then there were before the editorial was published. Nobody wants to be pigeonholed, judged or stereotyped.

To people who are part of a Greek organization: it is understandable that you don't want people to stereotype you. In fact, you are probably one of the most over-stereotyped kinds of people. But, you aren't going to convince people to not judge you if you do the same thing. In this case, fighting fire with fire is not going to work.

This doesn't even necessarily apply to Greeks vs. non-Greeks. It can be applied to gay vs. straight, white vs. black or any us vs. them mentality. In my personal experiences, there are not many things that feel worse than being accused of being or acting like something that you are not. Sure, I may be a white male, but that doesn't mean that I am obsessed with football or that I enjoy watching wrestling.

In addition, if you disagree with an editorial or opinion column you should shoot a letter back (which many people did). However, editors should not be receiving threatening and insulting phone calls. We are all adults and we need to start acting like it. That's my two cents, and hopefully after this there won't be a "Boycott Michael Peterson" Facebook group created.

Michael
Peterson



Michael Peterson is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at mtpeterson@eu.edu

ourview

Court system still broken

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When two student senatorial candidates contested the Student Government elections for alleged fraud last fall, they were referred to the Student Supreme Court.

However, this court had ceased in existence for six years, and the students had no court to turn to.

This situation caused many problems and controversy over the semester, sending those two candidates to the wrong individuals to deal with the dilemma. The government began functioning in a way without checks and balances.

Now, we are happy to report that after a six-year absence and a semester of delays, the Student Supreme Court is now back in existence at Eastern.

Student Body President Sean Anderson appointed all of the six student associate justices and one chief justice.

Though we are glad students finally have judicial representation in Student Government, this appointment of the

entire court by a single president may cause problems in the future. So, we urge the Student Government to look into changes the terms of at least half of the justices so that they will not all be appointed by the same president.

Currently, these seven justices are serving two-year terms. We feel that three could be appointed one year and four the next. This way, no single president will appoint all of the court members.

Think if George W. Bush appointed all nine chief justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, wouldn't future presidents have a problem with that? That's not how

democracies function.

We feel the Student Government should confront the justices about this lack of democratic structure and have three of them agree to serve a one-year term so that this problem can be fixed.

Then again, with the lack of seriousness that we've seen many senators take their elected positions, three justices may end up quitting next year anyhow, making that decision much easier. We hope that's not the case, but it is a common occurrence among students at Eastern with responsible positions.

In any case, we at *The Daily Eastern News* would like to congratulate the appointed justices in addition to all positions elected to form next year's Student Government.

The editorial is the majority opinion of The Daily Eastern News editorial board. Reach the Opinions editor at DENopinions@gmail.com.

DRAWN FROM THE NEWS | DAVID THILL



YOUR TURN | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Eastern prides itself on having small classes taught by full-time faculty. It's not a large, land-grant research institution, and that's what draws nearly 12,000 students to its campus. Within the last few weeks, a proposal has been implemented by the chair of the department of biological sciences (without a faculty vote) that will change non-major education in biological sciences.

The proposal will replace a teaching faculty position with less expensive, graduate student labor. Beginning in Fall 2007, graduate students, who may or may not even want to be in the classroom, will replace full-time, experienced faculty in laboratories, having sole control of nearly 60 percent of non-majors BIO 1001-G laboratories. Sixty percent of the non-majors students in BIO 1001-G will be taught at a state university by someone holding only a Bachelor degree and no previous teaching experience. These teaching assistants are not Ph.D. candidates, they're M.S. degree candidates. They're not qualified to teach at community colleges, but

now they'll be teaching at Eastern.

Students teaching labs will be required to attend a one-day workshop on "teaching." Department administration imply that a one-day workshop will provide a graduate student with the equivalent of the current situation — two faculty with more than 13 years combined experience at four institutions of higher education. Those two faculty members (yes, I am one of them) are most affected by this structural change. We will receive 64 additional students per semester while receiving fewer credit units.

I feel that those who wrote and decided upon this proposal show complete disregard of non-major education in biology. It is insulting to both non-major biology students and faculty alike. I'm thankful that, as an undergraduate at Eastern, I was treated with respect from other departments where I wasn't simply "just a non-major."

Brent L. Todd | Biology instructor

FEATURED BLOGGER

"The death of Captain America did not come as a huge shock. But it sure jolted Marvel Comic sales with the Captain America No. 25 issue, which is still hard to find in re-print editions."

ADAM
TEDDER



TO COMMENT.....

The Daily Eastern News welcomes responses to our original content.

For consideration, e-mail letters to DENopinions@gmail.com.

All letters to the editor may be edited for accuracy, clarity and length. Letters 250 words or fewer have the best chance of being published.

Only letters that include a name, address and phone number that are verified by The DEN will be considered for print publication.

You may also choose to join in conversations taking place online by going to www.dennnews.com.

YOUR TURN | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just as you addressed the "absolute absurdity that is Greek Week", I would like to address the objections I hold to your editorial.

First, I object to inflammatory statements such as calling Airband "pointless." Perhaps to outside observers Airband seems vacuous, but the results factor into points for winning Greek Week. My team had a coaching staff of dancers that worked with us until nearly midnight, five days a week. For you to say their time working with us was "pointless" is an insult to their years of dedication. Many fraternity brothers have never been exposed to dance, and Airband stretches us to experience coordinated, rhythmic movement in front of a large audience. It was a challenge we put our heart into and eventually learned through

hours of late night practice. For you to say our dedication and sacrifice was "pointless" is an insult to us.

You also disparaged tuggers, saying "you have way too much time on your hands." Many of our tuggers squeezed practice into their schedules and rushed to Greek Sing practice afterward still covered in mud. Many of them were also absent from social events and refrained from going out because they were simply too tired or had no time.

Greek Week is a time of fun and family. Many parents and relatives come to see their sons and daughters show what they've been working hard to achieve. We participate to earn respect from both the Greek community, and for ourselves. We improve and mature

www.dennnews.com | Page 5

OP-ED

FRIDAY
4.27.07

through these challenges, as we learn what it takes to communicate, collaborate, and work with peers to achieve a common goal.

"Brother" Mike Leon | Sigma Phi Epsilon



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KICKIN' IT OLD SKOOL (PG 13) 4:40 7:10 9:50 SAT SUN MAT 2:10
CONDEMNED (R) 4:50 7:30 10:10 SAT SUN MAT 2:00
HOAX (R) 9:00 PM ONLY
VACANCY (R) 5:00 7:20 9:30 SAT SUN MAT 2:30
IN THE LAND OF WOMEN (PG13) 4:30 6:50 9:10 SAT SUN MAT 1:50
DISTURBIA (PG 13) 4:10 6:40 9:20 SAT SUN MAT 1:40
MEET THE ROBINSONS (G) 4:00 6:30 SAT SUN MAT 1:30
WILD HOGS (PG 13) 5:20 7:40 10:00 SAT SUN MAT 2:20

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» **Blumberg**

FROM PAGE 1

**Amy Blumberg**

But after several phone calls went unanswered, they became worried. Amy's father went to the store, On Stage Dance Apparel, and found his daughter lying on the floor, the victim of a single gunshot wound to the head.

Blumberg's family and friends, as well as those on Eastern's campus, would spend the next seven years waiting and worrying.

Waiting for her killer to be brought to justice. Waiting for anything that could make some kind of sense of the seemingly senseless act.

After the better part of a decade, the Blumberg family can stop worrying.

The aftermath

Just days after Blumberg's death, a memorial service was held in Collinsville, Blumberg's hometown. As the service was about to begin, two buses full of Eastern faculty, staff and students arrived to pay their respects to a fallen Eastern student. The sentiment did not go unnoticed by Blumberg's parents and family.

"I was amazed at how two busloads of students on Christmas Break, from all over the place would get together like that," said Sue Blumberg, Amy's mother.

Several of Amy's sorority sisters and friends filed into the memorial service. They formed a large circle as "Wide Open Spaces" by the Dixie Chicks played. The song was

SUE BLUMBERG | AMY'S MOTHER

"Really, there is no closure when you lose a child. There will always be a missing part of your family. There will always be a hole that will never be filled. But it has given us a sense of peace knowing that part of the trial is over."

a "signature" of Amy's, her mother said.

"That is a moment I will never forget," she said. "(The support of Amy's friends) has really been a source of strength over the years. It has really been such a source of comfort."

Soon after the incident, police and investigators began trying to assemble some sort of idea what had happened. The Sigma Kappa house was searched and her sorority sisters questioned.

It was a time of fear and confusion on Eastern's campus, Hencken said.

"In Shannon McNamara's case, the suspect was captured within hours," he said. "For Amy Blumberg it took years."

That lack of closure is one that had never left Hencken.

"In my time at Eastern, as president, vice president and even director of student housing, when a student died, even in an auto accident, you want some sense of closure. This was the one incident where there was never any closure," Hencken said.

Now there is.

Finally charged, 'The tension was sickening'

In 2003 Robert Haida, St. Claire County state's attorney, charged Edward Phillips, 41, with Blumberg's murder. For three years

the case unfolded, revealing twists and turns along the way, and finally, after a three-day deliberation, the jury returned with a verdict: guilty.

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported that cheers erupted from the crowd assembled in the courtroom while Phillips displayed no emotion. That jubilation was absent in Sue Blumberg, Amy's mother, though. She used only one word to describe her feeling as the verdict was read.

"Relief," she said. "(Leading up to the verdict) it was a very emotionally charged time. The tension was sickening."

But in a room filled with Amy's family and friends, the verdict came back as they all had hoped. Amy's

killer had been brought to justice.

"This was seven years coming," Sue Blumberg said. "(I felt) total thankfulness and relief."

For Hencken, the verdict means justice has been served for an Eastern student.

"I hope this brings closure for (the Blumberg family)," he said. "You never get over losing a son or daughter, you just try to deal with it the best you can."

For the Blumberg family, it is a time they can finally put behind them.

"Really, there is no closure when you lose a child," Sue Blumberg said. "There will always be a missing part of your family. There will always be a hole that will never

be filled. But it has given us a sense of peace knowing that part of the trial is over.

"Now we can remember and celebrate the life of Amy without thinking about the trial. But (the verdict) does help."

Of the 12,500 students on Eastern's campus, most likely few remain who remember Amy Blumberg, but that doesn't mean she has been forgotten, Hencken said.

The Blumberg family has established two scholarships in Amy's name, the Amy Blumberg Memorial Scholarship, which is given to a graduating Sigma Kappa sorority member and another established for Charleston High School and Collinsville High School graduates attending Eastern.

And in the Memorial Courtyard in the Booth Library Quad, there is a bench with Amy's name on it, memorializing her for all to see.

"There are good things that can come from bad," Sue Blumberg said. "It doesn't take away the hurt but you try to find the good. That is how we have survived it."

» **Perry**

FROM PAGE 1

Perry also addressed the importance of the faculty's input, with respect to the recent controversy over the Electronic Writing Portfolio.

"(The faculty) know whether the students are learning or not," Perry said.

Because a personal relationship with the students is important to him, Perry said he anticipates himself being out and around campus frequently.

DR. WILLIAM PERRY | FUTURE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

"It's a hard concept to phrase (first-choice school) because that somehow implies that we are less than that. A lot of people I've talked to consider this university to be their first choice."

"The students (the new Student Government leaders) told me today to be like Lou, to be out and about and interacting with the students," Perry said.

Perry will begin his time at

Eastern as president on July 1. He already has an idea of how he wants to begin his time. He will work with the various groups on campus to "carve out the uniqueness of the university."



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Taylor hosts Louie Luau feast for finals week

President Hencken helps with Taylor Hall's Hawaiian luau for his last finals

By Tearria Ruffin
Campus Reporter

Aside of the excess amount of stress that may come from studying for upcoming finals, students can fill their bellies with delicacies from the Hawaiian luau.

President Hencken will trade his desk chair to stand behind a serving line Sunday night.

Hencken and other administrators will serve students at Louie Luau – a free finals feast – to wish students well on their finals.

"This is President Hencken's last finals feast, so we hope this one is extra special," said Jody Horn, director of Panther Dining and luau coordinator.

For the last several years, faculty and administrators offered

ROBERT AUGUSTINE | DEAN OF GRADUATE SCHOOL

"Eastern students are among the best and brightest college students. Eastern is known for its faculty-student bond and our community has a long history of embracing opportunities that allow faculty to show their support and encouragement to our students."

this activity to students to relieve students from any pre-finals jitters.

"We are here for the students and everything we do is basically for them," Horn said.

This event has been well-received by students for the past several years because it not only offers an opportunity for students to relax, but for them to see the support of Eastern faculty and administrators, said Robert Augustine, dean of the Graduate School.

"Eastern students are among the best and brightest college students," Augustine said. "Eastern is known for its faculty-student bond and our

community has a long history of embracing opportunities that allow faculty to show their support and encouragement to our students."

This event displays the level of respect and appreciation the administration has for its students, said Margaret Messer, director of Honors Student Affairs.

"(I choose to give back to my students) to show the students that I have confidence in them and I see the value of spending time with them," Messer said.

Usually, students were offered a variety of treats at past final festival feast. This year, however, students

will be served barbecue and appetizers such as mini meatballs and cocktail weenies.

Horn said she expects that students will enjoy the event this year as well as they have in the past.

"The atmosphere is usually fun, especially with the celebrity servers like President Hencken," Horn said.

In the middle of preparing for their finals, Messer said that students cannot only receive a free meal, but form bonds as well.

"It provides a break from studying while offering food and friendship for the students," Messer

LOUIE LUAU

»A free event for finals week open to all students. Hosts will include Lou Hencken and other administrators.

» **Requirements:** Students must bring their Panther cards, though the swipe will not count towards their meal plan.

» **Where:** Taylor Dining Hall

» **When:** 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

» **Why:** Students could use a break from their studies and interaction with other students may help.

» **Sample of foods:** Barbeque, appetizers such as mini meatballs and cocktail weenies.

said.

Louie Luau is a free event open to all students and will serve students from 9 to 11 p.m. in Taylor Dining Hall.

Students should bring their Panther cards.

The meal is free, but students must still swipe their cards, although it will not count toward their meal plan.

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announcements

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4/27

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help wanted

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lost & found

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roommates

2 Females needed. Cute house 1 block from Buzzard. Newly Available. Fully furnished, W/D, A/C. 10/12 mo. Lease. Call Jan 217-549-9188

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Female roommate needed 2007-2008 school year. \$400/month plus utilities. Fully furnished house and has W/D, A/C and dishwasher. Small dogs allowed. GREAT LOCATION TO CAMPUS! Call Casey at (630)290-6648.

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sublessors

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Call for an appointment!



By Kevin Murphy
Associate Sports Editor

Last year Eastern swept

then proceeded with wins

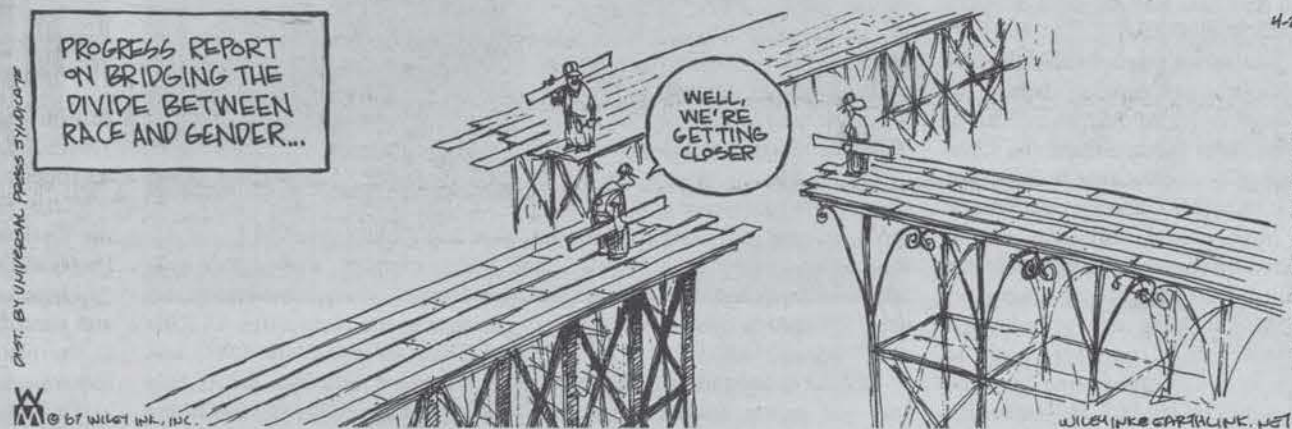
Jacoby also has said the

Schuetz said the team's energy and enthusiasm comes from the whole team, but specifically sophomore outfielder Angela Danca.

1. Tennessee Tech	17-3	41-14	6. Austin Peay	9-12	24-25
2. Eastern Kentucky	12-8	20-25	7. Tennessee State	9-12	32-20
3. Jacksonville State	12-9	27-20	8. Eastern	7-11	20-25
4. Samford	12-9	27-19	9. Southeast Missouri	7-13	16-26
5. UT-Martin	11-9	26-28	10. Morehead State	5-14	19-27

The Panthers will need to get the little things done right if they want to make the OVC Tournament.

PROGRESS REPORT
ON BRIDGING THE
DIVIDE BETWEEN
RACE AND GENDER...



4.27

BOYS LOCKER ROOM

ALL STUDENTS MUST CHANGE FOR GYM

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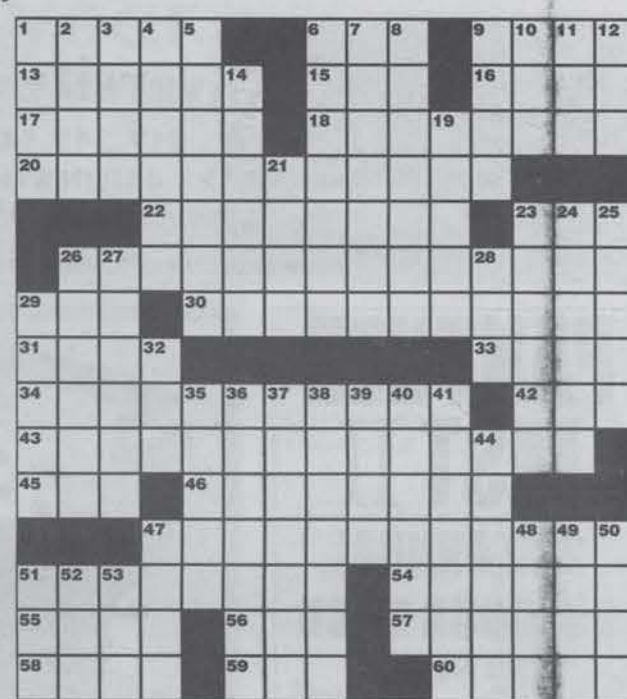
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33 Make a sacrifice, perhaps
34 Treason
42 Affairs
43 Producer of many fragrances
45 Hirer's request: Abbr.
46 "Sense and Sensibility" sister
47 Microscopic code carrier
51 It was on the 37-Down of Johnny Unitas and Lenny Wilkens
54 Heavy metal
55 Like the ocean
56 Rembrandt van
—
57 Complaints, informally
58 Head-turner
59 Navigation abbreviation
60 Crib parts

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- 3 Pennsylvania and others: Abbr.
- 4 Variety of swallow
- 5 Holy smoke?
- 6 World Series team manager of 1977, 1978, 1981 and 1988
- 7 Pressing
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- 11 "Road Rules" airt
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37 See 51-Across	41 Poet Thayer and others	50 Gremlins and Hornets
38 French philosopher Gilson	44 Skinny?	51 Be off one's guard
39 Tien ____ mountains in central Asia	47 Stuff in a locker	52 Brightness measures
	48 Reporter Skeeter of Harry Potter novels	53 Some college Greeks

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Solution to Thursday's puzzle

5	7	8	4	2	1	3	9	6
6	4	3	7	8	9	5	2	1
9	1	2	6	5	3	7	4	8
4	2	7	1	3	8	6	5	9
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1	3	6	8	9	4	2	7	5
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BASEBALL | EASTERN AT SOUTHEAST MISSOURI

SEMO's senior slugging, pitching to success

Shah transferred from Akron and Wabash Valley College

By Scott Richey
Online News Editor

The word journeyman is not usually associated with college baseball players.

But Asif Shah's collegiate career has seen him play for three different teams in four years.

The senior pitcher and outfielder at Southeast Missouri began his college career at Akron in Akron, Ohio, after being named the Ohio state player of the year in 2003 out of Cincinnati Country Day School. Shah played only one year at Akron before transferring to Wabash Valley College in Mount Carmel.

After playing one year for the Warriors, Shah transferred again to play for SEMO after being recruited by head coach Mark Hogan for his potential to be a two-way player.

Eastern (17-19, 7-7 Ohio Valley Conference) will have its hands full this weekend when they square off against SEMO (25-16, 10-5) for

series at Capaha Field in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Eastern head coach Jim Schmitz said he usually tries not to make too much out of each weekend series, but there has to be a sense of urgency to win two of three games against SEMO to solidify Eastern's spot in the Ohio Valley Conference standings.

Currently, Eastern is in fifth place in the conference and only the top six teams make the conference tournament.

"If we don't respond well to the sense of urgency, then we won't play well," Schmitz said.

SEMO is second in the OVC, and one reason for its success is Shah's play, both on the mound and at the plate.

Shah is in the top 10 of nine different statistical categories in the OVC for both batting and



Asif Shah

VITALS ON ASIF SHAH
THIS SEASON

Height/Weight: 6-1 / 170 lbs.
Position: OF/LHP
Bats/Throws: L/L
Average: .310
Hits: 39
Runs: 29
RBIs: 43
Walks: 24
W/L: 5-1
ERA: 2.63
CG: 3
BB: 24
SO: 57

pitching.

The statistics show Shah is a good mix of aggressiveness and patience at the plate as his 43 RBIs rank him second in the OVC and his 24 walks rank him fourth. He is also hitting .310 with five home runs in 39 games.

It's on the mound, however, where Shah really shines.

He was undefeated on the season before last Saturday's 4-0 loss to

BASEBALL STANDINGS

Team	OVC	Overall
Jacksonville State	11-4	23-19
Southeast Missouri	10-5	25-17
Murray State	8-5	14-24
Austin Peay	9-6	24-17
Eastern Illinois	7-7	17-19
Tennessee Tech.	7-8	20-20
Eastern Kentucky	6-7	17-20 -1
Samford	6-9	21-20
Tennessee Martin	4-10	15-26
Morehead State	4-11	11-27

Austin Peay. His record stands at 5-1 with a 2.63 earned run average in 12 appearances.

Shah was named OVC Pitcher of the Week on Feb. 28 and OVC Co-Player of the Week on March 27.

Hogan said Shah's experience and confidence on the mound and at the plate has led to his success this season.

"It's not a fluke," Hogan said. "He's been doing it on both sides for us."

Hogan said it is hard to pinpoint Shah as either a pitcher or an outfielder.

"I'm excited when he's in the lineup, and I'm thrilled when he's on the mound," Hogan said.

Shah's stats were average during his first year in Cape Girardeau.

He hit .250 with 14 RBIs and had a 2-3 record on the mound. Hogan said as a new player from a junior college, it took Shah a while to put things together on the field.

Hogan said his team's good record this season started with

MARK HOGAN |
SOUTHEAST MISSOURI COACH

"I'm excited when he's in the lineup, and I am thrilled when he's on the mound."

a solid pitching staff with good fielding behind it, but said he respects Eastern and counts on a battle between the teams.

One thing Schmitz said he wanted to do was create action through bunts and hit-and-run plays to make Eastern's hitters more positive about their swings after struggling at the plate during midweek losses to Illinois and Illinois State.

In the two games, Eastern only scored one run.

"They say hitting is contagious," Schmitz said, "and I really believe that."

Schmitz said Eastern must capitalize on hitting opportunities when available, but doing so against SEMO would be difficult because of the Redhawks' strong pitching staff.

Schmitz characterized Shah as more of a finesse pitcher with great command of the strike zone and his off-speed pitches.

"He's a guy that throws a lot of strikes and three pitches for strikes," Schmitz said.

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Welcome back all Alumni
returning for the Celebration Banquet
on Saturday April 28th!!

TOP MALE ATHLETES IN EACH SPORT

Cross Country – Jr. Brad Butler

- named first-team all-OVC
- had top times in 6K (18:59.93) and 8K (25:34)



Football –

Sr. Vincent Webb Jr.

- co-OVC offensive player of the year
- second on EIU's career rushing list (4,233 yards)



Soccer –

So. Brad Peters

- led Missouri Valley Conference with 11 goals and 25 points
- named first-team all-MVC
- four game-winning goals



Basketball –

Fr. Romain Martin

- OVC freshman of year
- averaged 14.8 points to lead EIU in scoring



Swimming –

Sr. Bill Senese

- 25 first-place finishes on year
- set three school records (50-yard freestyle, 100-free and 100-backstroke) at conference championships



Indoor Track –

Sr. Kyle Ellis

- Set indoor school record for pole vault (17 feet, 1 inch)
- NCAA indoor provisional qualifier



Wrestling –

Sr. Kenny Robertson

- qualified for third straight NCAA Championships
- 21-8 overall record (12-3 dual record)



Baseball –

Sr. Erik Huber

- third-leading hitter in nation (.451) as of April 22



Golf –

Sr. Anthony Imburgia

- Sixth at OVC Championships
- Won Kauai Collegiate Cup
- Member of OVC all-Newcomer Team



Tennis –

Sr. Chuck Levaque

- 13-6 record at No. 1 singles
- named second-team all-OVC



Outdoor Track –

Sr. Austin Hogue

- First in javelin, second in discus, and fifth in shot put on OVC best list



TOP 5

Eastern athletes to watch next year, as selected by the sports staff of *The Daily Eastern News*

5. Kris Gehrke, men's track and field – Gehrke is an all-around track and field athlete. He was fourth in the 60-meter hurdles at the Ohio Valley Conference Championship and third in the high jump.

He was in the top five in both the 110 and 400-meter hurdles at the Big Blue Classic.

4. Natalie Martin, women's tennis – The sophomore from Montreal made her mark her first year on Darling Courts. Martin battled injuries all year, but went 20-2 at No. 2 singles this year. Martin, along with junior Sandra Sasidharan, will form the core of a team that should be expected to contend for the OVC title next year.

3. Mike Robinson, men's basketball – Robinson made slight progress in his sophomore year after winning the 2006 OVC freshman of the year.

But now that Eastern's point guard will be an upperclassman, more will be expected of him next year. Robinson's ability to take care of the ball and set up the offense

Five Eastern teams to watch in the 2007-08 school year

5. Women's Tennis

The Panthers were picked to finish eighth in the conference but surprised the Ohio Valley Conference with a third place finish.

Hayley Homburg, the OVC freshman of the year, went 15-6 in singles competition.

Homburg and sophomore Natalie Martin lost only one regular season match as the No. 1 doubles duo.

4. Women's Indoor Track This team achieved new heights by winning the first OVC Indoor title in history.

The only OVC champion was sophomore Chandra Golden (60-meter hurdles). 29 of the 34 athletes will return next year.

3. Men's Soccer

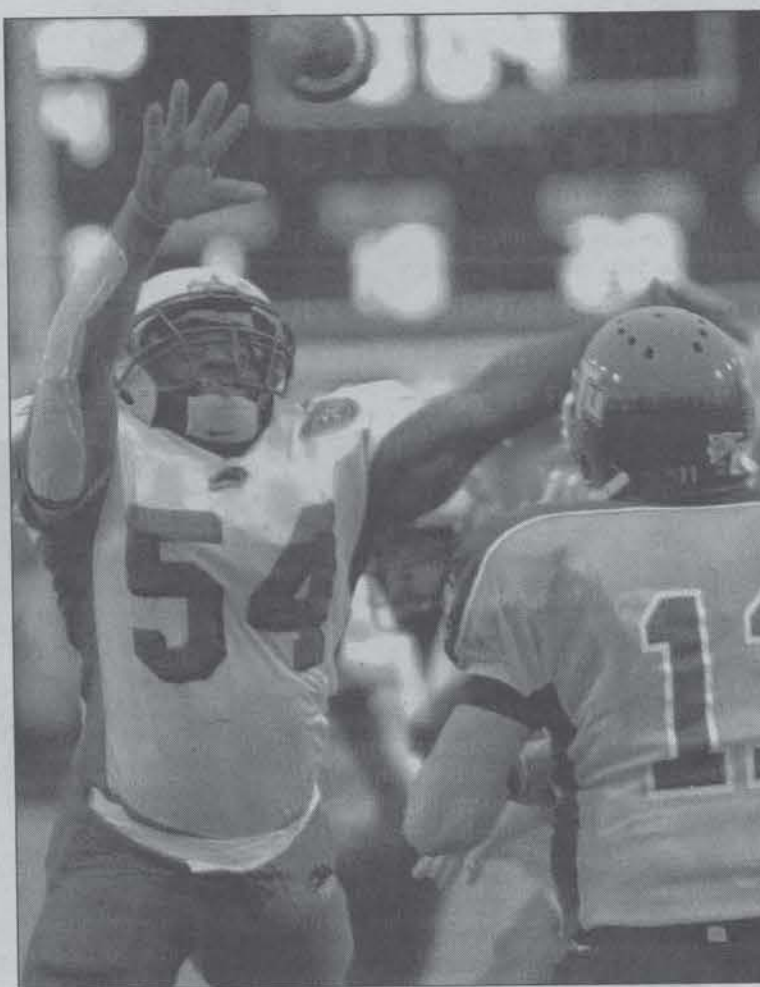
The men's team finished 11-7-2 and advanced to the Missouri Valley Conference semifinals, picking up its first MVC postseason win.

Next year's team will return first team all-MVC selections Brad Peters and Mick Galeski.

The Panthers will return nine of its 11 starters for the 2007 season.

2. Football

Senior quarterback Cole Stinson



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior linebacker Donald Thomas reaches for the ball against Tennessee Tech's quarterback Lee Sweeney. Thomas was last year's Ohio Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

will be crucial if Eastern wants to be an contender in the OVC.

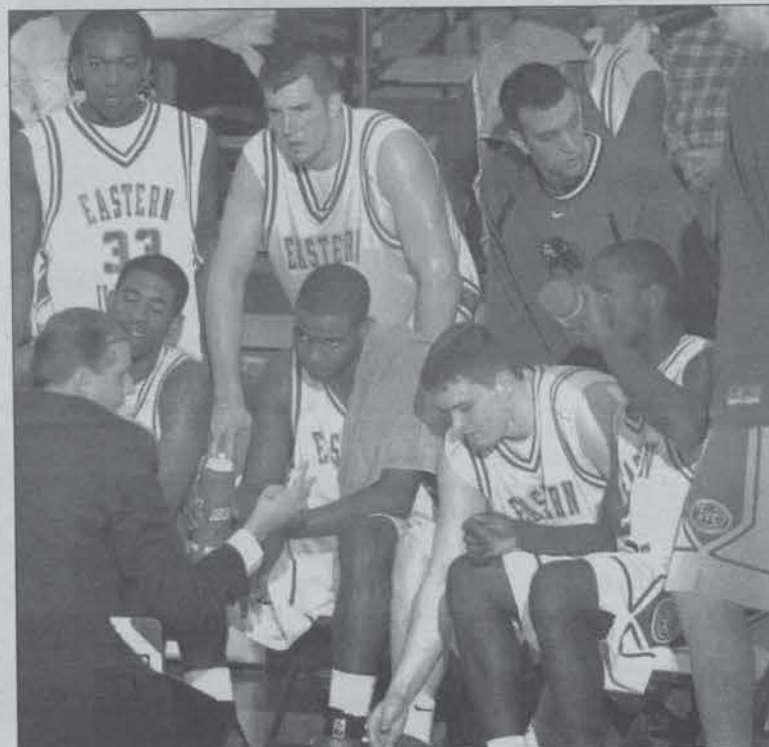
2. Kellie Floyd, women's soccer – The 2006 co-OVC player of the year, the junior forward didn't stand out in many statistical categories.

She didn't lead Eastern in scoring (second to Michelle Steinhaus with four goals), but she did distribute a team-high five assists. But Floyd was always pushing forward to attack and dropping back when needed to defend.

She enters her final year at Lakeside Field poised for even a bigger end to her collegiate career.

1. Donald Thomas, football – The junior from St. Louis led the team in tackles (122) and had two interceptions in Eastern's playoff loss to Illinois State.

He was named the 2006 OVC defensive player of the year for his efforts, and Eastern opponents should be wary next year anytime the 5-foot-10, 237-pounder, comes up to make tackle.



AMIR PRELLBERG | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The men's basketball team will return all 13 players for next season.

and senior wide receiver Micah Rucker will be looked to make the most impact on the field and lead Eastern to another OVC title.

Stinson finished with a 6-1 record as the Panthers starting quarterback in OVC play and was selected to the OVC all-Newcomer team.

Rucker, also an OVC all-Newcomer selection, was the top receiver (966 receiving yards and 13 touchdowns).

1. Men's Basketball

Leading the way will be 2006 Ohio Valley Conference freshman of the year Mike Robinson and 2007 freshman of the year Romain Martin.

These two, along with returning starters Bobby Catchings, Jake Byrne and Ousmane Cisse, should lead Eastern to a top five OVC finish.

TOP FEMALE ATHLETES IN EACH SPORT

Cross Country – Fr. Erin O'Grady

- OVC freshman of the year
- placed 13th at conference meet



Rugby –

So. Samantha Manto

- Led the team with runs of more than 20 yards
- second on team in tries (28)



Soccer –

Jr. Kellie Floyd

- Co-OVC Player of the Year
- Led team in points and assists, started all 20 games
- Played as a goalkeeper for a part of two games



Volleyball –

Jr. Eliza Zwettler

- Member of OVC all-Newcomer Team
- Fifth Panther to post 350 kills and digs in OVC era



Basketball –

So. Rachel Galligan

- Named first-team all-OVC
- Second in conference in scoring



Swimming –

Sr. Marliese Davidson

- 19 first place finishes
- 200-meter freestyle Mid Continent Conference



Indoor Track –

So. Chandra Golden

- 60-meter hurdle conference champion
- Friday Night Special 60-meter hurdle champion



Golf –

So. Carrie Riordan

- Fifth at OVC Championship
- Ninth at the Butler Spring Invite



Softball –

Sr. Sandyn Short

- Eastern's current all-time program home run leader (23)
- Two time second-team all-OVC, first-team all-OVC



Tennis –

Jr. Sandra Sasidharan

- Finished 19-2 at No. 1 singles
- Named first-team all-OVC



Outdoor Track –

So. Shawana Smith

- First in 200-meter dash and tied for first in 100-meter dash on OVC best list



SPORTS

FRIDAY
4.27.07

triplethreat

Here are the top three quotes from an Eastern athlete or head coach this school year.

The following quotes appeared in *The Daily Eastern News* within the past school year.

Some of them were serious, some of them were funny.

Enjoy as there will only be one more triple threat this year.

—Former Eastern football assistant coach Mark Hutson on head football coach Bob Spoo: "I think every assistant head coach has a goal to be a head coach someday. But not under these circumstances. Coach Spoo has meant so much to my career. We certainly wish him the best in this situation."

—Senior men's swimmer Bill Senese on his greatest fear in life: "My greatest fear is drowning which is probably funny for a person who is a swimmer, lifeguard and coach. But I'm terrified of water that I can't see the bottom of."

—Eastern women's basketball head coach Brady Sallee on how his team shot the ball in a 63-41 loss to Samford on Feb. 3: "It looked like we were trying to shoot a football into a basketball goal."

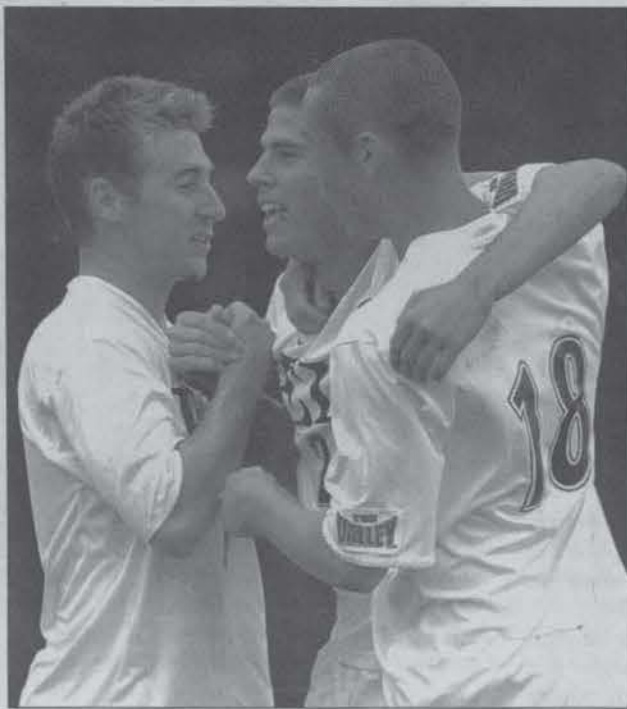
—compiled by Matt Daniels

SPORTS | END OF THE YEAR COVERAGE



ERIC HILTNER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Senior linebacker Clint Sellers is assisted off the field at Illinois on Sept. 1. Sellers' hit on E.B. Halsey on the season-opening kickoff injured his right shoulder and ended his football career.



CARRIE HOLLIS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Brad Peters (center) and Mick Galeski (right), were big reasons why Eastern men's soccer enjoyed an 11-7-2 record. Peters scored 11 goals, while Galeski had four goals and seven assists on the year.



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern fans and Prowler ignore the Samford men's basketball team while they are announced at Eastern's ESPN2 televised game on Feb. 3. It was the first time an ESPN network televised a game at Lantz Arena.

PANTHER HIGHLIGHTS

TOP 10

Eastern sports stories from this past school year, as selected by the sports staff of *The Daily Eastern News*

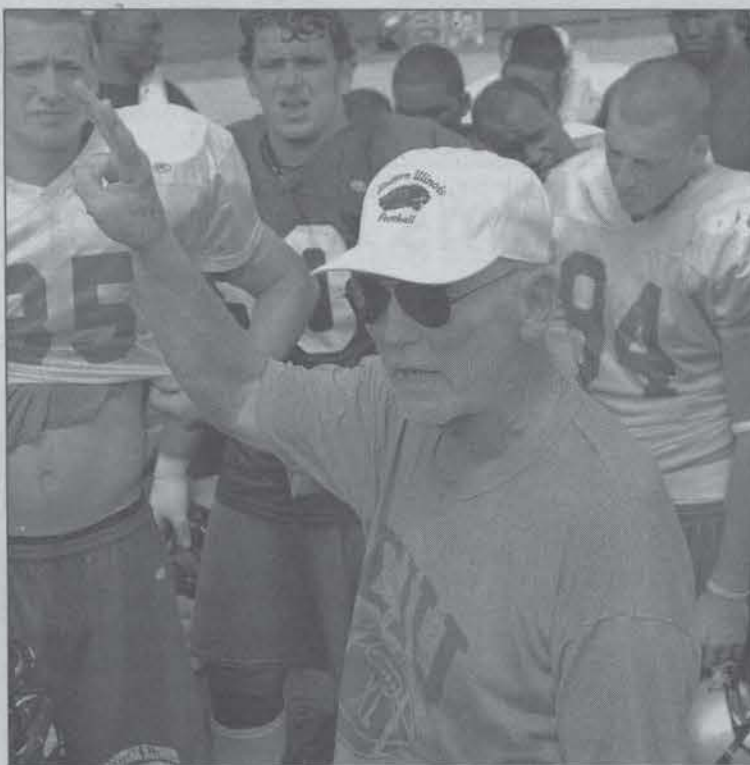
10. The Feb. 3 Eastern men's basketball game drew 3,194 people to Lantz Arena. Whether it was to watch Ohio Valley Conference foes Samford and Eastern play, or to be a part of a nationally televised game is unclear. Samford defeated Eastern 53-48, but ESPN2 televised the game, the first time an ESPN Network televised a game from Lantz Arena.

9. The women's rugby team continued its domination again this school year, compiling a 9-1 record. Its lone loss, 27-12 against Texas A&M in the Panthers' last game, ended Eastern's 14-game winning streak dating back to the 2005 season.

Seven school records were tied or broken this year and Eastern outscored its opponents 652-42, including a school-record 124-0 win against Michigan State.

8. This year, the men's tennis team was back in the OVC Tournament for the first time since 2004, while the women advanced to the semifinals for the first time since 2003.

On the women's side, junior



JAY GRABIEC | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Head football coach Bob Spoo talks to his team at the end of a practice in August at O'Brien Stadium. Spoo missed the entire 2006 season because of an undisclosed illness. Despite his absence, Eastern went 8-5 and made a second straight trip to the Division I-AA playoffs.

Sandra Sasidharan (19-2 at No. 1 singles) and sophomore Natalie Martin (20-2 at No. 2 singles) shined. Senior Chuck Levaque earned his fourth all-OVC selection after going 13-6 at No. 1 singles.

7. Erik Huber always could hit the ball. But he never had the power numbers to go with it. This year, that changed.

Huber, the best hitter in the OVC and as of April 22, the third-best hitter in the nation (.451 batting average), has seven home runs this year.

During his three years at Eastern before this year, Huber only had three home runs. The 6-foot-6, 215-pound first baseman also had a 21-game hitting streak this year.

6. Freshmen in almost every Eastern sport made a significant contribution in their first year on the field, court or course.

Romain Martin (men's basketball), Jessica Huffman (women's basketball), Erin O'Grady (women's cross country) and Hayley Homburg (women's tennis) all won OVC freshman of the year accolades.

Martin led the Panthers in scoring (14.8 points), while Huffman finished second on the team (16.9 ppg). Martin was the first freshman to lead Eastern in scoring since the Panthers joined Division I in 1981.

O'Grady finished 13th at the OVC Championships, while Homburg posted a 15-6 record at No. 5 singles.

5. Clint Sellers ran down the field with his same aggressive nature Panther football fans were used to seeing in the 2005 season.

Only this time, after laying a hit on Illinois' E.B. Halsey on Eastern's season-opening kickoff, Sellers didn't get up.

The senior linebacker and 2005 OVC defensive player of the year eventually did get up. But Sellers suffered a separated brachial plexus bundle in his right shoulder, ending his football career.

4. Adam Howarth hadn't experienced a year like the 2006 men's soccer season as Eastern's head coach since his first year. Howarth compiled a 12-6-1 record in 2000. Since then, he'd never registered more than eight wins in his next five seasons.

That was, until this year and Eastern's 11-7-2 record.

Led by the scoring ability of sophomore forward Brad Peters (11 goals) and the play-making ability of junior midfielder Mick Galeski (seven assists), the Panthers picked up their first-ever Missouri Valley Conference Tournament win with a 3-1 defeat of Missouri State on Nov. 1.

The Panthers run ended in the semifinals, losing to Creighton 2-0.

3. Eastern women's indoor track title claimed its first ever OVC Indoor Championship in late February.

The Panthers held off Tennessee State by 15 points (132-117) at Lantz Fieldhouse.

Reminiscent of the entire indoor season, only one Panther claimed an individual victory.

Sophomore Chandra Golden's victory in the 60-meter hurdles gave Eastern an extra 10 points towards the team title.

2. Before this year, not too many people outside of Eastern and the Charleston community had heard of Tony Romo.

Romo broke onto the national scene in late October, leading the Cowboys to a 35-14 win against the Carolina Panthers. Romo-mania quickly spread across the nation, with Romo leading the Cowboys to a 9-7 record and a playoff trip.

However, Romo's season will be remembered for his botched snap in the Cowboys playoff loss at Seattle.

1. The initial outlook was four to six weeks.

But the estimated recovery period for Eastern football head coach Bob Spoo went the entire season.

Spoo had surgery at a St. Louis area hospital in late August, a week before Eastern opened the season at Illinois.

"When Spoo gets back, we expect to be undefeated," said former Eastern starting quarterback Mike Donato in the Aug. 24 edition of *The Daily Eastern News*. "And he expects us to be too."

Spoo missed all 13 games, returning to watch a few in the O'Brien Stadium press box late in the season. While Eastern didn't finish undefeated, it did have another solid year.

But even with Spoo out, Eastern football kept right on with its winning ways.

Assistant coach Mark Hutson took over as acting head coach and led the Panthers to an 8-5 record, a second straight OVC title and a second straight trip to the I-AA playoffs.

Spoo returned to day-to-day operations in early December.

He is scheduled to be on the sidelines when Eastern opens the 2007 season on Aug. 30 against Tennessee Tech.



2002



2002



1978



1996



1978

Celebrating 30 years of the arts

Celebration: A Festival of the Arts has been on Eastern's campus for 30 years and has often been plagued by rain

By Kristina Peters
Associate Verge Editor

Eastern President Lou Hencken remembers when Celebration: A Festival of the Arts began in 1977.

Thirty years later, Hencken looks back and recalls how much Celebration, a three-day music and arts festival, has evolved.

"I'm really pleased it began," Hencken said.

Hencken has seen it move from various locations. Celebration was once on Seventh Street and also in the quad near Old Main, but now it currently remains in the Library Quad.

"I think right now is the best location," Hencken said.

The festival begins at 11 a.m. today and continues through Sunday. Musicians are featured all three days, and Saturday and Sunday is the art show.

Hencken also mentioned that because it almost always rains during the festival, Celebration was held in the fall a couple of times.

The festival is known to be unlucky with the weather, he said.

Moving locations and dates is not the extent of Celebration's 30-year growth. It has grown in attendance, as well as the number of artists and musicians who are featured.

In the early days, there was basically several microphones and a set of speakers

DAN CREWS | DIRECTOR OF PUBLICITY FOR THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

"As the first outdoors event of the year, I seriously believe people are looking for an excuse to get outdoors, and Celebration is an excellent reason to go outside and enjoy spring."

on the stage," said Dan Crews, director of publicity for the College of Arts and Humanities. "Today, there's a state-of-the-art sound system, which offers the best possible sound for those attending the festival."

Technology may be one reason the festival has grown, but the focus is another.

"At first, the festival's programming focused on local or immediate area acts, performers and artists. Today, we attract artists from across the Midwest," Crews said.

Crews said he thinks the original planners of the festival would be surprised to see that it is still going strong after 30 years.

"I think they take a little pride in that," he said.

The event started when Vaughn Jaenike, the dean of fine arts at the time, wanted to revitalize Chautauqua, which is a tradition of combining education and music together in festivals.

"It is important to expose yourself to new experiences," Crews said.

The tradition has continued, and this year there will be 19 music groups, a combination of 150 musicians, and over 50 artists packed in the quad.

"Our goal is not to be the biggest festival, but a festival that offers high quality art and high quality music," Crews said. "The bottom line is to expose our

FOR MORE CELEBRATION INFO:

-For a calendar of Celebration events, check out page B2.

-To read about two of the artists whose work will be on display at Celebration, check out page B4

-To read about two of the musicians who will be performing at Celebration, check out page B5.

students and the local community to a wonderful cultural experience."

Crews tries to offer an eclectic mix of music and a variety of artists for the students, staff, faculty and community that find their way to campus for Celebration.

Hencken recalls seeing clogging one year at the festival.

He said he never would have seen a performance like that if it was not for Celebration, and it is good that a variety is offered.

It is the music and art that Crews likes most about Celebration.

"I usually buy my wife some type of potter item, and I usually purchase something for my yard," he said. "There's an excellent iron worker who has the neatest handmade sculptures that are perfect for my yard."

Hencken, on the other hand, considers the food vendors his favorite part of the festival. He enjoys pork chop sandwiches

and his favorite vendors serve sandwiches like that. Another festival favorite of Hencken is the lemon shake-ups.

"That is literally worth standing in line for," he said of the summer beverage.

There will be 13 different food vendors in the quad during Celebration.

Whether with food, music or arts, Celebration is a time for students to kick back before finals.

There could not be a better weekend to help students relieve stress as finals approach, Hencken said.

Not including breaks, students have been on campus for 34 weeks, Hencken said.

Celebration is also just an excuse to get outside.

"As the first outdoor event of the year, I seriously believe people are looking for an excuse to get outdoors, and Celebration is an excellent reason to go outside and enjoy spring," Crews said.

The festival is not just a draw for students but for many people who normally would not be on Eastern's campus.

"It gives people another opportunity to connect with the university," Hencken said. "It helps the spirit 'I am EIU.'"

Hencken said he believes Eastern belongs to the state of Illinois and anyone who wants to use its facilities, like Celebration, are welcome to do so.

Because Celebration brings people to campus, it helps the community economically.

"An event like Celebration has a number of spin-off effects... people buying gas, stopping at local stores, eating in restaurants and occasionally staying over night in local motels," Crews said. "Any time you have an event that brings people to your community, it's a good thing."



1996



1987



1987



1996

spotlight

ON THE VERGE | POUNCEONLINE.COM | FRIDAY 4.27.07 | PAGE B2

Celebration Events

TODAY

Ted Siebert Sand Sculpture Demonstration

Time | 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Location | Library Quad

Opening Ceremonies

Time | 11:30 a.m.
Location | Library Quad

EIU Jazz Lab Band

Time | 11:35 a.m.
Location | Quad Stage

The Fence Project

Time | 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Location | West side of Doudna

Bags Tournament

Time | 12 p.m.
Location | Library Quad

Landscape Painting Demonstration

Time | 12:30 p.m.
Location | Tarble Arts Center

Song for Jeffrey

Time | 1 p.m.
Location | Quad Stage

Elsinore

Time | 2:30 p.m.
Location | Quad Stage

Eastern Collegium Musicum Consort

Time | 3:30 p.m.
Location | Tarble Arts Center

Holding Mercury

Time | 4:15 p.m.
Location | Quad Stage

EIU Concert and Collegiate Bands

Time | 6 p.m.
Location | Quad Stage

SATURDAY

Art Fair

Time | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Location | Library Quad

Littlest Dancer Lecture and Demonstration

Time | 10 a.m.
Location | McAfee North Gym

Meet Curious George

Time | 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Location | Library Quad

Switchback

Time | 10 a.m.
Location | Quad Stage

Food Booths Open

Time | 11 a.m.
Location | Library Quad

Claudia Hommel

Time | 11:45 p.m.
Location | Quad Stage

Children's Art Activities

Time | 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Location | Library Quad

Multi-Cultural Concert

Time | 1 p.m.
Location | McAfee Auditorium

Prairie Hoedown

Time | 2 p.m.
Location | Quad Stage

Elaine Fine and John David Moore Classical Music Performance

Time | 3:30 p.m.
Location | Tarble Arts Center

Ninth and Cleveland

Time | 4 p.m.
Location | Quad Stage

Unity Gospel Choir

Time | 5:15 p.m.
Location | Quad Stage

SUNDAY

Lily and Grayce

Time | 11 a.m.
Location | Library Quad

Food Booths Open

Time | 11 a.m.
Location | Library Quad

Prairie Plant Sale

Time | 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Location | Library Quad

The Nova Scotians

Time | 12:15 p.m.
Location | Quad Stage

'Blisters' Vaughn and the Staple Crop Ramblers

Time | 1:45 p.m.
Location | Quad Stage

Concrete Jungle

Time | 3:30 p.m.
Location | Quad Stage

Whiskey Jack

Time | 5 p.m.
Location | Quad Stage

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Kristina Peters
Associate Verge Editor

playlist

The Verge: We've learned about so many other people's musical preferences, and we thought we had to at least share the choices of Kristina Peters, our current Associate Verge Editor and up and coming Fall 2007 Verge Editor. She has been a fan of Aerosmith for quite some time, and it was hard for her to pick a favorite song. The other artists have just recently made it onto her favorites list.

"Summer Love"
Justin Timberlake
"Angel"
Aerosmith
"Girlfriend"
Avril Lavigne
"Clarity"
John Mayer
"Hump de Bump"
Red Hot Chili Peppers

vergestaff

Contact the On The Verge staff
by e-mail at DENverge@gmail.com
or visit us on the Web at
www.pounceonline.com

You found Justin Timberlake reference No. 14, now find the other two in this issue, but don't count page 3.

Verge editor
Associate Verge editor
Pounce Online editor
Verge designer
Verge interactive reporter

Adam Testa
Kristina Peters
Katey Mitchell
Jason Kohlmann
Jason Duarte

Bringin' Justin Back

Verge Staff Report

Justin Timberlake is a hero to people around the world.

Okay, so maybe not around the world, but at least around the *Verge* desk in the newsroom.

You, our loyal readers, may or may not have noticed that Justin Timberlake has been mentioned in the *Verge* 16 times in 13 issues this semester, not including this page.

What started with Sean Anderson's Playlist soon turned into an out-of-control Justin Timberlake experience.

We tried to avoid putting Timberlake references in just to have them. We wanted to make sure every reference was warranted.

This unwritten rule held out for the most part, but we admit it, there were some times we just thought, "What can we do with Justin this week?"

So, for those of you that missed it, here is a walkthrough of our semester with Justin Timberlake:

Jan. 12: Student Body President Sean Anderson, our first Playlist celebrity, named "Sexy Back" by Timberlake as one of his five favorite songs. This, along with the eclectic mix of other songs on his list, reinforced the idea behind why we started the feature.

In another new *Verge* feature, "Alpha Dog" was reviewed as part of Trailer Talk. *Verge* Editor Adam Testa said the acting in the movie seemed high quality. The actual movie later proved otherwise.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICKELODEON

Justin Timberlake hosts the 2007 Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards.

Feb. 2: In the article "Spring into new fashions," Erick Boyce, a junior industrial technology major, said people dress the way their influences dress. "Whoever is their new favorite artist, like if it's Justin Timberlake, they might wear a blazer over a T-shirt; if it's Three 6 Mafia, they'll dress baggy."

Online Editor Brandon Campbell examined the downfall of punk rock and people like Timberlake's role in the destruction of this musical genre. "Good looking guys playing polished songs, which contain about as much insight as Justin Timberlake, is not punk."

Feb. 9: One of the candy hearts on the front of our Valentine's Day issue said, "Verge hearts Justin." Could we

make it any more obvious?

In a column about how music genres mean nothing any more, *Verge* Editor Adam Testa said, "the only difference (between country and boy bands) is that country bands tend to play their own instruments rather than flashing off dance moves like Justin Timberlake and other boy band members."

Feb. 23: Black Student Union President Thomas Battle became the second Playlist celebrity to name a Timberlake song to his top five when he named "My Love."

The *Verge* staff box joke also read, "How can Britney Spears expect to ever win back Justin Timberlake's heart with a shaved head?" Still true. She just needs to give up trying already.

March 9: Another Timberlake staff box joke. This one read, "Whether you're stuck in Charleston or heading to Tahiti for spring break, be sure to remember that listening to Justin Timberlake will always help any situation."

March 23: Yet another staff box joke. This one said, "Our minds are still on spring break. Fill this space with your own creativity. If all else fails, do like we do and plug another Justin Timberlake reference."

March 30: This time it wasn't even our own doing. The band Slippery When Wet, who played in Charleston on March 31, said it "will rock your body harder than Justin Timberlake." Props to Slippery When Wet for making this easier on us.

April 13: Here was another use of the staff box joke for a Timberlake reference. This one said, "Although Justin Timberlake regrets making a McDonald's ad, the *Verge* does not regret any of the references made about the former "NSYNC member." We still don't regret them.

April 20: Three Timberlake Playlist appearances, three different songs. This time it was "Summer Love" on Greek Week Steering Committee co-chair Megan Dolan's top five.

April 27: There are three references this week. Can you find them? Hint: Check the staff box. Sorry, but you'll have to find the others on your own.

From boy band fame to hip-hop craze

By Kristina Peters
Associate *Verge* Editor

He started as a blonde boy with an Afro. Now, he's a man with a shaved head.

Justin Timberlake has changed his appearance since his boy band days.

He sharpened his image by dressing in dapper suits, sweaters and clean-cut polos.

He may have changed his looks, but his voice and dance moves have not changed, they have simply improved. Timberlake has shown the world he can sing through his falsetto and that he is capable of more than just high-pitched pop notes that he crooned as a member of "NSYNC."

No one can deny that Timberlake was a successful artist in the boy band era. "NSYNC" released four successful albums, including "No Strings Attached," which sold 2.4 million copies the first week — a recorded highest first week album sale.

But I'm not here to discuss Timberlake's boy band days. In fact, I despised the singer when he was a member of "NSYNC."

I'm here to say that people must give Timberlake credit for breaking away from that genre and finding success as a solo artist.

He continues to show that he can rock your body with his most recent album, "FutureSex/LoveSounds," which was released in September 2006.

Timberlake did what others have failed to do: he branched off and stepped away from singing songs like "Bye Bye Bye" and "It's Gonna Be Me" to recently winning a Grammy for Best Dance Recording and Best Rap/Sung Collaboration.

Also, "FutureSex/LoveSounds" debuted at No. 1 on the charts and sold 684,000 copies its first week.

So, for all you Justin haters out there, there are probably twice as many Justin lovers, and I must admit I am one of them.

I purchased "FutureSex/LoveSounds" and listened to it for four weeks straight — no exaggeration. It was always playing on the CD player in my car, and when at home, it was playing on iTunes. It didn't get old, and it still hasn't.

It did take him a while to break away from the pop genre. In 2003, Timberlake released his first solo album, "Justified," which reached No. 2 on the charts and sold 439,000 copies its first week.

It didn't quite reach the success of "FutureSex/LoveSounds," probably because when listening to songs like "Cry Me a River" and "Rock Your Body" one could still visualize Timberlake with the Afro dancing around like a puppet.

But Timberlake took all the right steps and broke into the world of hip-hop. He is also starting to make a name for himself as an actor.

He recently starred in "Alpha Dog" and "Black Snake Moan." Although "Alpha Dog" was pitiful, I was impressed with Timberlake's acting. He portrayed his character well, and I found myself sympathizing with his character in the film.

More Timberlake is to come this summer with the release of "Shrek the Third" on May 18, in which he is the voice of Artie.

I have no doubt in my mind that this talented individual will continue making both quality movies and quality dance songs.

Peters can be reached at denverge@gmail.com.



Jonny Lives! leaves lasting impression

By Jason Duarte

Verge Interactive Reporter

Jonny Lives! lead singer Jonny Dubowsky breaks rock band stereotypes.

Dubowsky, who graduated with top honors from New York University, proves individuals can rock hard, party hard and still make the grades.

He now has something to celebrate with Jonny Lives! recently releasing its debut album, "Get Steady."

The album starts with "I'm No Good By Myself," which will resonate memories in fans of Lit, Everclear and Eve 6.

"I'm alive with the words that you speak / Spread the ashes of everyone's troubles all over the floor / Cause I just can't take it," Dubowsky sings.

This catchy, out-of-luck rock and roll song sets the tone for the next 13 tracks on the album.

With a half-synthesized voice remnant of Art Alexakis of Everclear and Julias Casablancas of The Strokes, the album's title track, "Get Steady," is straight up rock and roll with a

ALBUM DETAILS

- Artist: Jonny Lives!
- Album: Get Steady
- Label: Victory Records
- Release Date: Available Now
- Current Single: "Get Steady"



Ramones connotation.

"I don't need no cheap success / I'm ready, I'm ready, get steady / Fools like us could live like kings / I'm ready, I'm ready, get steady, get steady," the chorus sings.

In one line of the song, Dubowsky sings about how he sleeps with women and forgets them.

He also states his confidence in success.

"I know I can make it, but Lord knows I won't fake it," he sings.

With these lyrics, Dubowsky states his mindset and flat out lets people know, "Look. We're here to rock and roll, and we are going to make it big time and not sell our souls in the process."

To many, this is exactly the way rock and roll should be.

"Cliche" features a slew of

guest appearances including Nick Valesni of The Strokes, Sammy James Jr. of The Mooney Suzuki and Jody Porter of Fountains of Wayne. All these singers hail from Dubowsky's home city of New York.

Not even two-and-a-half minutes in length, "Cliche" acts as a high-five to fellow acts local to New York, all by representing their area as well as their music in the song.

"Do It Again" is the album's breakdown. As the general feel of the album peaks at a pop-rock level, the song begins as Dubowsky sings, "Way down in the basement / There's a light on and I'm making the same mistakes / Lying, crying for a change of direction / I could use some protection from my weaknesses."

These lyrics, paired with

the tone of the music, lead the listener to believe that Dubowsky wrote the song about drugs and addiction.

"Do it again, do it again, save me from your magic, cause it's the static that keeps me coming back," he sings. "Somehow, it's amazing / I can feel the ghost swimming 'round through my sticky veins / I can feel my best and my worst at the very same time."

He could just be out of luck and bummed out, but who else would sit in the basement making addictive mistakes and be attracted to the "static?" It's definitely open to interpretation.

Jonny Lives! really has a lot to offer. They incorporate sex, drugs and, of course, rock and roll into the entire album, and it isn't just a taste of each.

Since New York is a prime place for indie rock groups to emerge from, Jonny Lives! carries the torch of rock and roll passed on from the countless bands that preceded them.

This album is recommended for fans of Everclear, Lit, The Strokes, Interpol, Editors, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, The Mooney Suzuki and Eve 6.

celebrating art

PAGE B4 | FRIDAY 4.27.07 | POUNCEONLINE.COM | ON THE VERGE

Quad becomes artist's sandbox

By Brandon Campbell
Verge Reporter

Ted Siebert is a 47-year-old professional artist.

He's been perfecting his craft for over 20 years, but his medium might not be what one would expect.

Instead of paints, a canvas or even clay, he uses sand to bring his ideas to life.

Siebert has turned countless mounds of lifeless sand into everything from towering castles to statues of Santa Clause.

"I didn't start building sand castles seriously until I was about 27, and I don't think I really got good at it until I was in my early 30s," Siebert said.

Comparing his art to trades like carpentry, Siebert explained that it takes years to become a craftsman.

"It seems like you're always learning something new," Siebert said. "It's not something you master at a certain point and say, 'This is as good as I'm going to be.'"

Originally, Siebert started out as an amateur sand sculptor participating in team sand sculpting competitions, but in time, his interest blossomed into a profession that would eventually take him all over the world.

"My last job was in Louisville, my next job is in Vegas," Siebert said. "And we've been to Asia a half dozen times and Australia, New Zealand; I've been everywhere except South America."

While not formally trained as a sand sculptor, Siebert has been successful nonetheless.

He has been able to help support himself, his wife and his three children through his sand sculpting business, The Sand Sculpture Company, based out of Woodstock.

"My dad was a sculptor, and I just came from an artistic family," Siebert said. "Some of the stuff you learn drawing, painting you can transfer into other types of art and other stuff you just learn from the school of hard knocks."

Working with sand is no easy task.

Siebert said hundreds of sand types exist and that a good sculptor will have to know which sand will work for the different jobs ahead of him.

"Sands that have had waves crashing on them for billions of years will be rounded and aren't good for packing, where new sand, like in a river, is sharper and angular so it will pack tighter," Siebert said.

After finding the right type of sand,

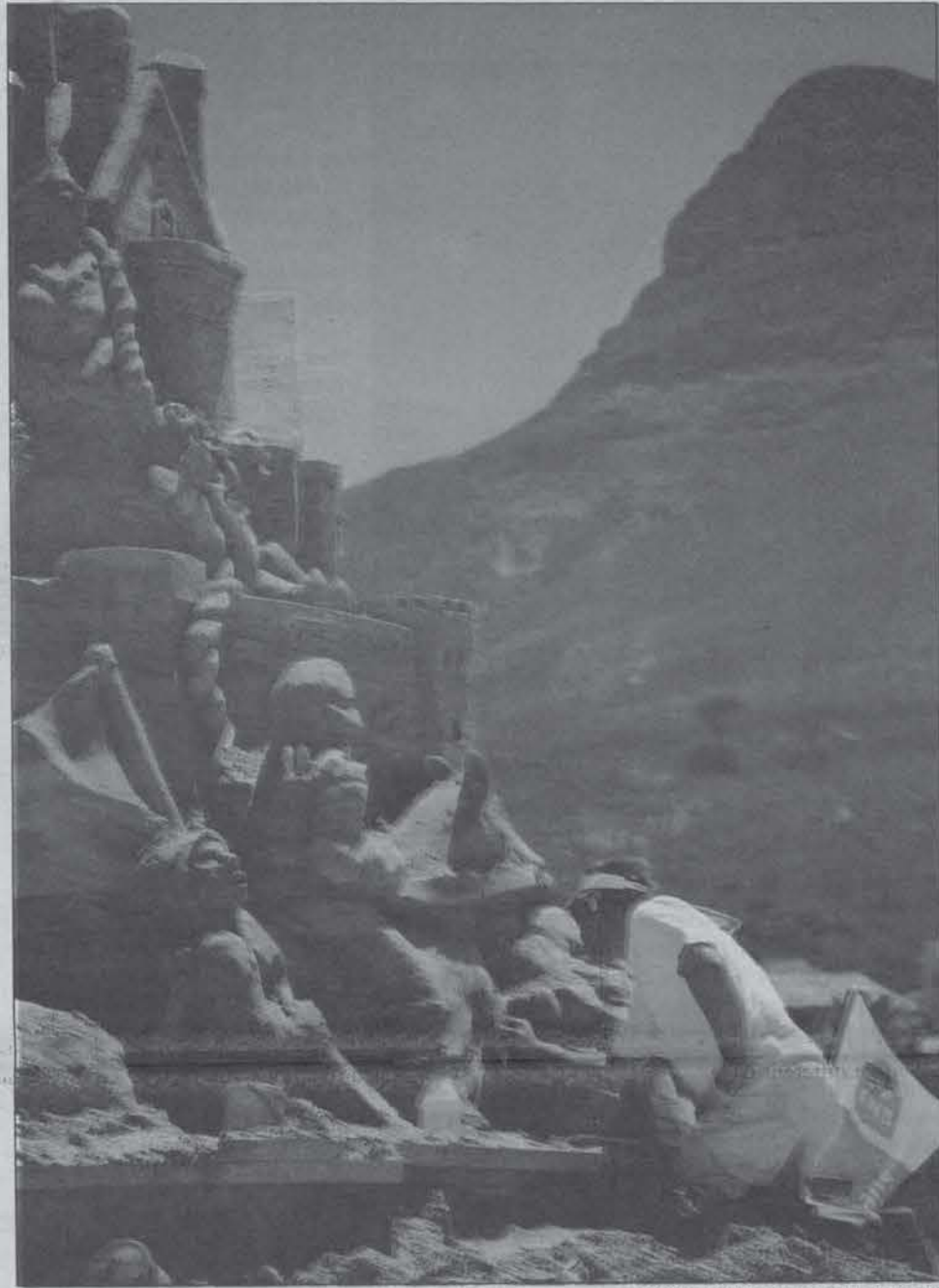


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY TED SIEBERT

Ted Siebert, a sand sculpture artist from Woodstock, builds a sand castle in South Africa. Siebert will be building a sand castle on the Library Quad as part of the Celebration event this weekend.

Siebert said that he wets the sand so it will pack.

Using a machine, he will then start packing the sand every foot making sure not to trap any air inside.

In case of rain, Siebert explained that he sprays his sculptures with an adhesive that can protect against a light drizzle,

but it won't do much against a torrential downpour.

"When you're all finished (packing the sand) the sculpture will look like a giant wooden wedding cake," he said. "And then you start carving from the top down."

On average, Siebert said that a good sculptor can get through nearly 4 tons of

sand a day.

"When someone hires me to (get through) a semi truck of sand, which carries 25 tons of sand, I figure about six or seven days to do a good piece," Siebert said.

The job takes Siebert on the road nearly 180 days out of the year.

Out of the 25 jobs he picks up throughout those six months, he claims about four or five of them will take him out of the country.

While working only six months out of the year may seem easy, Siebert claims otherwise.

"It's quite a physical job. When I finish a job, whether its three days or 13 days, you're just wiped out physically and mentally so you need like two days to recoup," Siebert said.

Not only have Siebert's abilities been honed over the years, but the types of jobs he has been offered have matured as well.

"Eighteen years ago, most of my work was in shopping malls. Now, I am lucky if I do two malls a year," he said. "So, I am doing a lot more festivals and special events where I didn't used to do that much outdoor work."

Siebert's Web site, www.sandsculpting.com, has recently played a prominent role in his business, accounting for 50 percent of his job offers, whereas the rest comes from knowing his customers and how to market toward them personally.

Even though he has been hired time and again to sculpt Christmas scenes and more Mount Rushmores than he would like to remember, Siebert keeps his creative muscles in shape by improvising as much as he can.

"For the most part, my work's 90 percent inspiration. That's probably the nicest thing about my job; I don't have to do the same thing over and over again," Siebert said.

Now, even as a professional, Siebert continues to participate in the competitions that initially brought him into sand sculpting, and it is his years of experience which have helped him and his team win international recognition.

Siebert and his sculptors have set six sand casting world records.

A 24-foot, hand-carved castle that took his team 92 hours to complete set the latest of these records.

Siebert will be visiting Eastern for his second time during the Celebration arts festival starting today.

This year, Siebert will be featured in the Library Quad and plans on building a 10-foot tall, 15-to-20 ton castle.

Teaching art for a lifetime a rewarding experience

By Stacy Smith
Verge Reporter

DOROTHY BENNETT | LOCAL ARTIST

"Art is more like an obsession to me. I'd rather be doing a project; I don't care whether I feed (my husband) or not."

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome surgery in both hands did not stop Dorothy Bennett from doing what she loves.

The Eastern alumna dreamt of leaving college and moving to Chicago with hopes of becoming a famous artist.

However, Bennett fell in love with a Charleston native and has not moved ever since.

When her kids were old enough to return to school, Bennett decided she wanted to teach elementary education.

"My kids were a lot of fun to hang out with, so when they went back to school, I went back to school," she said.



Dorothy Bennett

Bennett teaches art part time at Eastern to students majoring in elementary education, and she also teaches full time at Jefferson Elementary School.

"It's been proven that children in fine arts like dance, music, drama and art are more successful because it teaches them to think with a different part of their brain than they do academically," Bennett said.

Bennett is involved in numerous local art groups like the Tarble Arts Advisory Board, the Coles County Arts Council and she serves as the vice president for the Illinois Art Education Association.

Her involvement extends to this weekend's Celebration festival. She will set up a booth where she will

be selling her artwork, including handmade pillows, scarves and other fiber works.

"She has experience and talent and recognizes the need in her community," said Jeff Boshart, a professor in the art department and long-time friend of Bennett. "She's not ever part of the problem but always part of the solution."

She is also the director of the Eastern summer art camp.

"I get bored easily, so I usually have two to three projects going at once," she said.

Although she is heavily involved in the community, she still has time for friends and family.

"She doesn't forget people," Boshart said.

"I've never met anybody that doesn't have anything positive to

say."

With a lot of practice, attending classes and workshops, anyone can become a good artist, Bennett said.

"Art is definitely something that can be formed," she said.

Although Bennett's family is her main priority, sometimes working on her projects can leave her husband hungry.

"Art is more like an obsession to me," she said. "I'd rather be doing a project; I don't care whether I feed him or not."

Bennett creates all types of artwork. She enjoys creating fiber work and three-dimensional work.

Bennett uses all types of mediums, but her favorite creations are from fiber work, such as knitting hats and scarves.

"When I work with my hands,

I find it more rewarding," she said.

Boshart met Bennett 19 years ago at the local Arts Council.

"She's so concerned with color and texture and what goes over together," Boshart said.

Bennett said she works about eight hours on projects and spends her free time gardening and exercising with her husband.

During her free time, Bennett enjoys exercising, gardening and spending time with her family.

Gene Harrison, art education professor, helped Bennett get a part-time job at Eastern because she has a lot of experience teaching elementary art.

For the 15 years Harrison has known Bennett, he describes her as energetic and having a good sense of humor.

"She has been placed with good student teachers and has helped them become better student teachers," Harrison said. "She shows them the tricks of the trade."

celebrating music

ON THE VERGE | POUNCEONLINE.COM | FRIDAY 4.27.07 | PAGE B5

Mercury heats up after 'Supernova'

Reality television show
contestant to play at
Celebration today

By Jason Duarte
Verge Interactive Reporter

After appearances by Dennis Haskins and Jodie Sweetin, it's time for a reality star to make his way to Eastern.

Matt Hoffer, lead singer and guitarist for Holding Mercury, appeared as one of 15 contestants on "Rockstar Supernova."

"I always felt like I was kind of a square peg trying to fit into the round hole, and that was based on my voice. My voice is more of a cleaner, kind of melodic voice than a hard kind of rock voice," Hoffer said. "I'm more like The Police than I am Motley Crue."

As a more rock-oriented version of "American Idol," "Supernova" narrowed 15 contestants down to one winner. Hoffer was the first to be disqualified because he didn't fit the hard-rock standards.

"They were looking for the 'rock guy' from that (show)," Hoffer said. "I always thought they thought I was really good, but they probably just wanted to get me on there for exposure for myself as someone that's easy to weed out."

Hoffer and Holding Mercury will be in Charleston at 4:15 p.m. on the Library Quad as part of this year's Celebration event.

The band will be playing a 70-minute set featuring songs from Hoffer's "Never Comfortable" album and new songs.

Hoffer is no stranger to the Charleston area, having played shows at Jackson Avenue Coffee and other local venues.

"I played a weekend there and I had some people that really, really enjoyed the Jackson Avenue Coffee show, so I'm just trying to make my way down there and try to keep the fan base going," Hoffer said.

Holding Mercury pumps out melodic rock/sophisticated pop, Hoffer said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MATT HOFFER

Matt Hoffer, who appeared on the reality series 'Rockstar Supernova,' will be performing with his band Holding Mercury at 4:15 p.m. today on the Library Quad. The band will play a 70-minute set containing both new and old songs.

"Our main influences would probably be The Police, Duran Duran, The Cars and then we probably sound a bit like Muse and Keane," he said. "We're sophisticated pop with a different edge."

Holding Mercury is a revived project with a breath of new life.

"We were actually together in 2002, a long time ago, and we went through the whole band name fiasco game, trying to figure out a band name," Hoffer said. "They're either taken, or you just come up with bad ideas."

Holding Mercury will be releasing its debut album, "Downfall of an Empire."

"We're still trying to get a logo and album artwork and all that," Hoffer said. "It's just been a big headache, but the album's done. It's just the marketing machine behind it."

Influences for Holding Mercury come from more than just other musicians.

"I write the majority of the lyrics, and you can take influence from a play you watched to a book you read to a conversation you overhear on a bus to just an overall feeling," Hoffer said. "For me, my strength is taking music artistically in a music sense and a melodic sense, but I wish I could be a sculptor or a painter or a playwright or any of that other stuff, but you can use those people to inspire you."

Holding Mercury has performed all over the band's home city of Chicago, including some renowned venues.

"We've played the Metro, the Double Door; it's been a while since we've played House of Blues," Hoffer said. "We've played some outdoor festivals. We've been out and

played (the College Music Journal festival) and we've played some onstage shows here and there. We've played pretty much all the major venues in Chicago."

Hoffer does not have any rituals or pre-concert superstitions.

"Besides drinking beer to warm up the voice a little bit, no not really," Hoffer said. "I don't do any voodoo or anything like that. It's cool when you have a song to introduce you. It usually gets you pumped up. Sometimes we don't get that to the sound guy or something because they're dealing with all kinds of other stuff."

But Holding Mercury is still just another smaller band struggling to make it.

"We're just looking now to buy our way out of poor," Hoffer said. "We've started a new record label called Level It Records. We've raised a significant amount of money. And so we're going to try and buy our way onto a big tour where people are filling 1,000 to 2,000 seats per night as the opening act and tour more regionally or nationally."

Before hitting television and making music his primary focus in life, Hoffer used to work in the real estate business.

"I had a few just tremendous years, and at a certain point, you're like, 'Well, I've bought everything I need, and money is not making me happy in this thing,'" he said.

Hoffer began playing guitar when he was 13 years old. He played during his college years at the University of Illinois.

"It's always been the thing I really wanted to do, but for whatever reason, it's always been a backburner, not like front and center," Hoffer said. "Finally, at age 27, I had all the money I needed to kind of make my focus on the music thing and have that be the primary focus in my life, and I have no regrets."

Despite low ratings and being kicked off the show so early, Hoffer said "Supernova" helped his musical career.

"That show kind of, I don't know if bombed is the right word, but it had nowhere near the audience of 'American Idol,'" he said. "So a lot of the people that were there, they had a little booster from the show and everybody is just trying to build off that."

Local band brings together members of all ages

By Kevin Kenealy
Online Interactive Editor

The band played for nearly 12 hours. The band members played into the night at a fiddle show in Battleground, Ind., two summers ago.

"We literally played all night," said Steve Harrison, banjo player for Charleston's Airtight Oldtime Stringband. "It was getting pink in the east, so we had decided probably that was about it for the evening."

As Harrison walked across a campground area, near where they were playing, on his way to the restroom, he saw someone getting out of a tent.

"They were these guys with their instruments in cases and coolers in hand, so I said, 'Guys, I think it's starting to pick back up,'" he said.

Harrison describes the band's sound as Kentucky bluegrass' cousin, a Midwest idiom all on its own. The band will be playing at 2 p.m. Saturday on the Library Quad as part of the Celebration event.

The band's Internet CD, "Bridging the Ages," features 20 songs including tracks from Harrison's previous band, the Indian Creek Delta Boys.

Several of the songs, including "Rolling River," have been stretched out at pickin' parties, which are "big, big family reunions," Harrison said.

"People do what you call field picking and set up tents and chairs and coolers and go for a couple of days," he said. "We look forward to that one big time."

J.B. Faires, fiddle player for the band, enjoys the parties because they are a chance for people who play all different types of instruments to play together.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY AIRTIGHT STRINGTIME BAND

The Airtight Stringtime Band describes itself as Kentucky bluegrass' cousin. The Charleston band will be performing at 2 p.m. Saturday on the Library Quad.

Harrison grew up in a musical family. His father had a string band, and Harrison would hear him playing his fiddle in the house. Harrison's mother would also often sing in the kitchen.

Harrison was raised in the 1950s and '60s, a time he described as the birth of rock and roll and folk music. He watched Elvis Presley perform on "The Ed Sullivan Show." Many years after watching Elvis perform, the 62-year-

old Harrison is a part of Airtight, a band with a CD he said reflects the age difference of the group members.

"I'm 62 and (Jesse Danner is) 25, and we're bridging quite a span in ages in our band members," he said. "Plus, some of the tunes we're playing are 100 or 200 years old."

The Airtight Oldtime Stringband gets its name from one of the most important bridges on the Embarras River, which Harrison and Faires said works because they are river-themed in their work.

The Airtight Bridge is also famous in Coles County because of the local lore surrounding the bridge.

The bridge was supposedly the location where a woman's body was found dismembered in 1980. The murderer was never found.

Even though the band name had been discovered long before the legend spawned, Faires remembers having thought about the place seeming creepy when he was younger.

"(I) grew up in Charleston, went to Charleston High School and there'd always be places people would go to spook themselves, and that place has always been sort of mythical," Faires said.

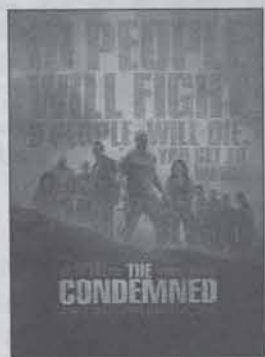
Like the legend of the bridge, word has gotten around on the band as its Web site includes compliments from states as far as North Carolina and West Virginia. However, Harrison considers the band as amateur.

"I use amateur in the sense of what you're doing is going to put bread on the table, not how qualified you are to do it," Harrison said.

Whatever their status, Faires have admitted to having nothing but fun with it all.

"I do this just for the fun of it; it's not something I do to make a ton of money. It's not a commercial venue for me."

trailertalk



Director: Scott Wiper
Starring: Stone Cold Steve Austin
MPAA Rating: R

Professional wrestler Austin follows in a trend of wrestlers moving to the big screen in his debut as a leading actor in "The Condemned."

Austin plays Jack Conrad, a prisoner awaiting the death penalty, when he is suddenly bought and used as part of a reality TV show that pits himself against nine others fighting for their lives.

If you are wondering whether or not you'll like this film, add up all the equations. Stone Cold + action + death = mindless entertainment. Now if that sounds good to you, go for it.



Director: Harvey Glazer
Starring: Jamie Kennedy, Vivica A. Fox
MPAA Rating: PG-13

"Kickin' It Old Skool" stars Kennedy playing Justin Schumacher, a man that awakes from a coma after 20 years and attempts to bring back the art of breakdancing with some of his old friends.

This film looks like it will have plenty of funny one-liners and Kennedy has proven to be comical in the past, but his recent track record with movies has been abysmal.

This film could be surprising and funny for the entire duration of the film, but that is pretty iffy at this point.

Recommended only for Kennedy fans and those wishing to relive some breakdancing or 1980s memories.



Director: David Goyer
Starring: Justin Chatwin, Margarita Levieva
MPAA Rating: PG-13

In "The Invisible," Chatwin plays Nick Powell, an everyday teen with a nice life, until his life is abruptly and tragically cut short when he is murdered.

Now he finds himself in between the realms of life and death as "The Invisible." He has but one chance to live again, but in order to do so, he will have to solve the mystery of his own death.

David S. Goyer, screenwriter of "Batman Begins," directs this movie as his third feature film.

This film looks interesting and different than other films coming out in the near future. And it may have a lot more depth in the storytelling than just solving the plot of the murder.

-By Online Editor Adam Tedder



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT

Luke Wilson and Kate Beckinsale star in "Vacancy," a thriller about two people who find out their hotel room was once a murder site. The couple fears for their lives as they may become the next victims.

'Vacancy' leaves viewers wanting to stay checked in

By Adam Testa
Verge Editor

Gender stereotypes can change lives. The new movie, "Vacancy," has characters play into perceived societal gender roles and takes a reverse approach in the long run.



Kate Beckinsale and Luke Wilson star in the new thriller

about a couple on the brink of divorce.

Wilson plays David Fox, the walking stereotype of the American male.

David won't stop to ask directions and completely ignores everything his wife suggests.

Beckinsale, on the other hand, plays Amy Fox, a strong willed, determined woman who does not feel she gets the respect she deserves from her husband.

This personality conflict leads the two near divorce and to a shady motel in the middle of nowhere when their vehicle breaks down on a road trip.

Both Beckinsale and Wilson bring their characters to life and really make the audience understand their personalities in the seven-cast member film.

With such a small cast, "Vacancy" allowed for a lot of character development, not only for the Foxes but also for Mason, the creepy manager of the hotel portrayed by Frank Whaley.

The character development and gender stereotypes of Beckinsale and Wilson continue through the film until the end. By the end of the film, the theme of women's empowerment shines through the movie.

Not many movies take the chance of

making a female into a dominant role, but this one takes the risk and capitalizes on it.

In addition to superior acting from Whaley, Wilson and Beckinsale, the movie also featured tremendous directing by Nimrod Antal and amazing filmography.

The Hungarian director's first American film sets the stage for a successful Hollywood career. "Vacancy" should serve as a strong launching point for Antal's future in American film.

The filmography of the movie added to its edge-of-the-seat suspense. Often times, scenes would not have been as creepy if they had been filmed from any other angle.

One potential problem with the movie is that it is short, only 80 minutes in length.

Of this short time frame, a lot of it is used to set up the Foxes arrival at the motel and the relationship status between the unhappily married couple.

More time could have devoted to the thrill sequences and the exciting drama of the motel entrapment.

With quality acting, awesome directing, amazing filmography and a gripping storyline, "Vacancy" has become a film to stand out from other recent horror/thriller movies.

In addition to all the technical achievements and Hollywood standards, the movie should also be applauded for challenging the social norms of gender stereotypes.

By putting Beckinsale in the role of Amy Fox, the producers and casting directors sent a message to other Hollywood big wigs that women can succeed in the power roles of movies.

This movie is recommended for anyone looking for an easy thrill or scare.

thisweek on dvd

DREAMGIRLS

Directed By: Bill Condon
Starring: Jamie Foxx, Eddie Murphy, Jennifer Hudson
MPAA Rating: PG-13
Run Time: 130 minutes

Synopsis: Three singers in the 1960s are about to have their musical dreams come true.

ALPHA DOG

Directed By: Nick Cassavetes
Starring: Emile Hirsch, Bruce Willis, Justin Timberlake
MPAA Rating: R
Run Time: 118 minutes

Synopsis: The true story of the youngest person to be placed on the FBI Most Wanted List.

THE SANDLOT 3 - HEADING HOME

Directed By: William Dear
Starring: Luke Perry
MPAA Rating: PG
Time: 96 minutes

Synopsis: A baseball player travels back in time to relive his past.

Waging war against product advertisements

By Adam Testa
Verge Editor

"E.T." had Reese's Pieces. "Talladega Nights" had Wonderbread. "The Wizard" had Super Mario Bros. 3. Throughout the years, movies have been fighting a war: the war between entertainment and advertisement.

When audiences travel to the movie theater and pay \$8 to see a movie, they want entertainment, not

advertisement.

Product placement has changed this.

Product placement is when a company pays to have its product integrated into a movie's scenery and script.

Sure, it would be nearly impossible to make a two-hour movie without any brand name products being shown. No one could drive a car or drink a soda or beer.

But many times these products will be incorporated as a major theme of the movie or will be placed so ridiculously one cannot even stand it.

The recent movie "Disturbia" reeked of horrid product placement through the entire movie. This viewer became almost physically sick from the copious amounts of product placement trash I consumed during the movie.

From the initial moments of Shia LaBeouf and his character's father enjoying a classic bottle of Coca-Cola on the river to the Twinkie pyramid he builds to the final call of, "This is going on YouTube," the product placement continues throughout the entire film.

Now don't get me wrong. I am fully aware of the cost of producing a major studio film and how the money brought in from corporate sponsorships can help offset these expenses. But, still, the point is that there comes a point where product placement has gone too far.

Audiences pay to see the movie for quality writing, acting, directing and special effects. We don't pay to watch a two-hour commercial.

The line between entertainment and advertisement becomes even more blurred when a movie completely revolves around product placement.

Two major movies come to mind when I think of this Hollywood phenomenon: "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle" and "A Christmas Story."

In "Harold and Kumar," two stoners spend their night trying to find a White Castle. Yes, the restaurant. How much more product placement can there be? The restaurant's name is in the damn title of the movie. Does it get any more blatant than this? Please.

But what about "A Christmas Story?" How about the fact the whole movie revolves around a young boy wanting a Red Rider BB gun.

After seeing this movie, what kid also doesn't want one? They even promise their parents they won't shoot their eyes out.

Hollywood studios need to leave the marketing to the businessmen and focus on the entertainment factor in movies.

We'll always have commercials to tell us what to buy; movies don't have to do this.

Testa can be reached at denverge@gmail.com.



events calendar

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TODAY

Jeff Helgesen Concert

Time | 5 p.m.

Location | Iron Post in Urbana

More info | Jeff Helgesen is a jazz/blues/electronica performer and a native and resident of Champaign-Urbana. He has performed live with Aretha Franklin, Natalie Cole and the Jazz Members Big Band of Chicago. He has also recorded with Ray Charles and Anthony Braxton.

Helgesen's influences include Woody Shaw, Don Fagerquist and Kenny Dorham. The event is free of charge.

Full Circle Concert

Time | 6 p.m.

Location | Our Daily Bread Cafe in Mattoon

More info | Full Circle describes its unique musical stylings as "gospel music with a twist."

The Mattoon band has made Our Daily Bread Cafe its Friday night venue and performs there almost every Friday night.

The event is free and open to the public.

Observatory Open for Public Viewings

Time | 8 p.m.

Location | EIU Observatory

More info | Eastern's observatory will be open to the public for an open house. This will be the last open viewing at the observatory until June.

The open house will be held even if the skies are cloudy this evening. The facility is located between O'Brien Stadium and the intramural softball fields.

Rip Chords and Xtension Chords Concert

Time | 8 p.m.

Location | Foellinger Auditorium in Champaign-Urbana

More info | Rip Chords is a women's a cappella group at the University of Illinois that formed in 1992. Xtension Chords, on the other hand, is an all-male a cappella group at the U of I. The group has 11 members.

The concert is \$5 for students and \$8 for the general public.

Air This Side of Caution Concert

Time | 10 p.m.

Location | The Cowboy Monkey in Champaign

More info | Air This Side of Caution is an indie/rock band from Chicago. The four-member band started in 2000.

The group's influences include Muse, Smashing Pumpkins, Steely Dan and Radiohead.

There will be a \$5 cover charge for the concert.

Third Finger Up Concert

Time | 10 p.m.

Location | Sneaky Pete's in Effingham

More info | Third Finger Up is a rock band from Beecher City. It started in 2003 and has formed into a five-member band.

The band will be performing at Sneaky Pete's Bar and Grill in Effingham free of charge.

Elsinore Concert

Time | 10 p.m.

Location | Iron Post in Urbana

More info | Elsinore originated in Charleston. The local folk rock was voted "Best Live Band" at the 2006 Champaign-Urbana Local Music Awards.

The band's influences include Wilco, Radiohead and Ben Folds.

Elsinore will be playing at the Iron Post, where there will be a \$6 cover charge for the event.

SATURDAY

Children's Story Time

Time | 10 a.m.

Location | Booth Library Ballenger's Teacher Center

More info | A Children's Story Time event will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. in Booth Library.

The event is being held as part of Asian Heritage Month. It will feature the stories "Just Add One Chinese Sister" and "Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding."

The Fuz Concert

Time | 3 p.m.

Location | Panther Paw

More info | The Fuz is a four-member rock/funk group. It has about 26 original songs and about 100 cover songs. The group's influences include The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, The Grateful Dead and Widespread Panic.

The concert is free of charge and The Fuz will also be playing at 8 p.m. Saturday at Friends and Co.

Holly Holmes Concert

Time | 7:30 p.m.

Location | Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Urbana

More info | Holly Holmes is an acoustic/jazz/Latin performer from Champaign-Urbana. In 2000, she earned a bachelor's of music degree in jazz studies and voice from Western Michigan University.

Her influences include Cassandra Wilson, Björk, Thelonious Monk and Ella Fitzgerald.

Whisperwall Concert

Time | 8 p.m.

Location | The Spec in Decatur

More info | Whisperwall is a four-member rock/pop group from St. Louis. The band recently released a CD, "Whisperwall Greatest Hits," on April 21.

The concert is free of charge.

Goretisque Concert

Time | 8 p.m.

Location | The Phoenix in Champaign

More info | Goretisque is a metal band that started in 1998 with two members. Now the band has four members.

There is a \$5 cover charge for the concert.

blue SUEDE Concert

Time | 8 p.m.

Location | Common Grounds in Mattoon

More info | blue SUEDE is a country/inde/folk rock group from Mattoon. The band has seven members and has been performing in its current format for six years.

The group's influences include Jimmy Buffet and Guy Clark.

Chai-Town Concert

Time | 8 p.m.

Location | Assembly Hall in Champaign

More info | Chai-Town is a Hindi-English a cappella group that formed in 2002 at the University of Illinois.

The group has performed across the nation from North Carolina to California.

Poprocks Concert

Time | 8 p.m.

Location | Whiskey Wild Saloon

More info | Poprocks is a five-member rock band from Effingham. The group's influences include everything '80s, and according to the band, it sounds like "a sexy party."

MONEY\$HOT Concert

Time | 10 p.m.

Location | Sneaky Pete's in Effingham

More info | MONEY\$HOT is a rock/pop band from central Illinois. The band consists of five members, and its influences include U2, Black Sabbath, AC/DC and Guns 'N Roses.

The concert is free of charge.

Adam Wolfe Concert

Time | 12 p.m.

Location | Pot Bellies in Champaign

More info | Adam Wolfe is a rock artist who is originally from Freeport. He moved to Champaign in 1998 for college and graduated with a degree in music composition.

His influences include Elvis, Ozzy Osborne, Johnny Cash, Foo Fighters and Nirvana.

SUNDAY

Sleeper Car Concert

Time | 9 p.m.

Location | Canopy Club in Champaign

More info | Sleeper Car is a five-piece folk/alt-country/rock-Americana band from Chicago.

The group's influences include Ray Charles, Andrew Bird, Beck, Paul Simon and Bob Dylan.

ROLLING EVENTS

2007 Graduate Art Exhibition

Duration | Through April 29

Location | Tarble Arts Center

More info | This Eastern Master of Arts Studio Art group exhibition presents the work created by Scott Aigner, Derek Clem, Judy Dethmers, Betty Farmer, Zach Huelsing, Jamie Kruidenier, and Connie Richards.

This exhibition is co-sponsored by the EIU Art Department.

"Tales Untold: The Stories of Folk Art"

Duration | Through July 29

Location | Tarble Arts Center

More info | The background and traditions of Illinois folk arts are explored in this exhibition.

It features quilts, carvings, dolls, models and other projects. All of the art was made from the 1970s through the 1990s in east central and southeastern Illinois.

Tarble Arts Center's permanent collection was researched by and created with the 2007 EIU Historical Administration graduate students.

If you would like your events on our calendar, please e-mail them to denverge@gmail.com or call 217-581-2812.

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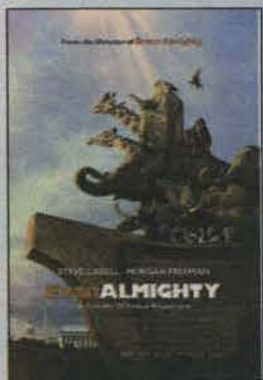
Sunday, April 29, 2007 • 3:00 p.m.

**Best Western Worthington Inn
920 W. Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, Illinois**

summer preview

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trailer talk



Director: Tom Shadyac
Starring: Steve Carell, Morgan Freeman
MPAA Rating: PG
Release Date: June 22

"Evan Almighty," a sequel to "Bruce Almighty," appears like it can be successful, even without the likes of Jim Carrey.

Carell's character, Evan Baxter, who was tormented by Bruce in the first film, is expanded upon in this sequel as Carell turns into the epitome of Noah, complete with an ark.

It is Carell, and Carell alone, that will make this worth seeing. He has proven his talent as a comedian in "40 Year Old Virgin."

But if you are not a fan of his comedic style, this is a film to pass.



Director: Gore Verbinski
Starring: Johnny Depp, Keira Knightly
MPAA Rating: PG-13
Release Date: May 25

"Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End," the third part of the trilogy, looks like it will redeem itself from the letdown of "Dead Man's Chest."

The story continues in the third part as Will Turner and Elizabeth Swan search for Capt. Jack Sparrow, who Swan left to die in "Chest."

"At World's End" will be filled with as much action and comedic satire from Depp as the previous films, and both these factors make this movie worth seeing. Whether disappointed or not by the second part, watch this film to see how the long-winded plot finally ends.



Director: David Yates
Starring: Daniel Radcliffe
MPAA Rating: Not yet rated
Release Date: July 13

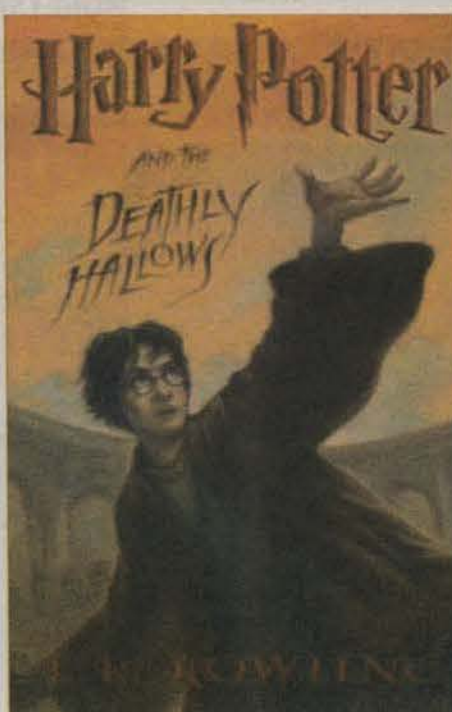
It's the fifth year for Harry Potter, and he's still battling Lord Voldemort in "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

The few brief mentions of Voldemort are all the viewer gets from the trailer for the film. For those who have not read the books, this trailer is useless. However, the trailer is dark and flashy, which will draw those viewers in.

Everyone knows, though, that most who tune in this summer for the Harry Potter sequels already have read the books and know the plot, so what else is needed?

Recommended for those who have been following the life of Harry Potter, but not for those who have yet to tap into the phenomenon.

- By Associate Verge Editor Kristina Peters



Harry Potter Book Seven

On July 21, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" will be released to the public.

The book is the seventh, and allegedly final book, in J.K. Rowling's saga about a young wizard and his adventures at Hogwarts, an academy for young wizards.

The series' sixth book, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" left readers with many questions and much speculation as to what will happen in the last book.

Is Severus Snape good or evil?

Will Harry Potter die?

Can Albus Dumbledore truly be dead?

The book, being published by Arthur A. Levine, contains 784 pages. "Deathly Hallows" will be the second longest book in the series. The longest was "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" with 896 pages.

"Phoenix" will also be released in movie form on July 13.

- By Verge Editor Adam Testa

Summer Music Festivals

Van's Warped Tour featuring Bad Religion and New Found Glory

July 28: Chicago

Aug. 7: Indianapolis

Aug. 14: St. Louis

Family Values Tour featuring Korn, Evanescence and Atreyu

July 20: St. Louis

July 22: Chicago

Aug. 10: Indianapolis

Lollapalooza featuring Pearl Jam, Daft Punk, Interpol and Snow Patrol

Aug. 3-5: Chicago



Summer CD Release Dates

May 15

Gretchen Wilson: "One of the Boys"
Linkin Park: "Minutes to Midnight"

May 22

The Used: "Lies for the Liars"
Celine Dion: "Delles"

June 12

Toby Keith: "Big Dog Daddy"

June 19

The White Stripes: "Icky Thump"

July 10

Smashing Pumpkins: "Zeitgeist"

Hot Comics for Hot Weather

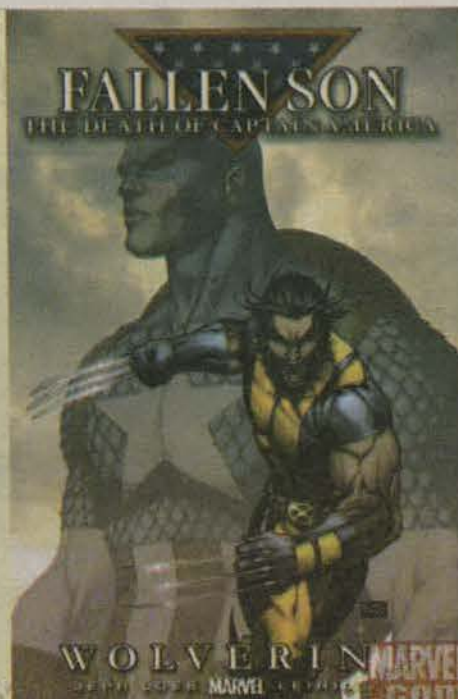
There will be plenty of comics to keep track of from various companies this summer.

Marvel will continue stories from the aftermath of its previous series, "Civil War," with "The Initiative" and the death of Captain America with "Fallen Son." Marvel will also see the return of the green behemoth, the Hulk, in "World War Hulk."

DC Comics will concentrate on a series called "World War III" for the later part of spring and will continue its mainstream titles throughout the summer.

Dark Horse comics will be continuing its series, which include "Hellboy," "Star Wars: Legacy" and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" throughout the summer. And allegedly, on July 4, the comic book "Feedback" will be released. "Feedback" is based off the Sci-Fi Channel reality show "Who Wants to be a Superhero?"

- By Online Editor Adam Tedder



trailer talk



Director: Len Wiseman
Starring: Bruce Willis, Timothy Olyphant
MPAA Rating: Not yet rated
Release Date: June 27

When a rogue patriot soldier (Olyphant) threatens America, only one man can stop him: John McClane (Willis).

In "Live Free or Die Hard," the fourth installment in the "Die Hard" saga, McClane must fight to save his daughter and his country.

The movie appears to be packed with action, suspense and outstanding performances from the stars. This movie may actually be a sequel worth seeing this summer.

Recommended for "Die Hard" fans of all ages.



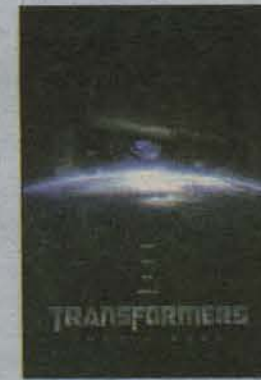
Director: Sam Raimi
Starring: Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst
MPAA Rating: PG-13
Release Date: May 4

With great power comes great responsibility. And when the power comes in the form of one of summer's biggest blockbusters, the studio has a responsibility.

This responsibility is to get viewers excited for the movie, but not to spoil it. The "Spider-Man 3" trailer may spoil too much of the movie.

The two-minute trailer gives away too much of the movie's storyline and may detract excitement from the actual film.

This movie will be absolutely amazing, but if you want to see a trailer, watch the teaser so you'll still have something to enjoy.



Director: Michael Bay
Starring: Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox
MPAA Rating: Not yet rated
Release Date: July 4

Why did Hollywood leave our childhood in the hands of director Michael Bay?

"Transformers" appears to be a poor reproduction of one of the greatest television shows and animated movies of the 1980s.

Not only does the movie not stay true to the original storyline of the show, some of the characters have been changed.

Bumblebee, formerly a Volkswagen Beetle, has since been changed into a Camaro. Bay said this is so people would not confuse the character with Herbie the Love Bug. Seriously?

This movie is not recommended for any college students, unless they want to have their childhood destroyed.

- By Verge Editor Adam Testa